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Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6405th meeting

Tuesday, 19 October 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2010/522)

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10-59199 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2010/522)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa and Timor-Leste, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Borges (Timor-Leste) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. Haq to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Pedro Serrano, head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Serrano to take the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2010/522, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ms. Ameerah Haq, to whom I now give the floor.

Ms. Haq: Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to introduce the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/522) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), covering the period from 21 January to 20 September 2010.

At the outset, I would like to pay special tribute to Mr. Takahisa Kawakami, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Security Sector Support and Rule of Law and my dear colleague and friend, who passed away last March in Dili. He made an important contribution in advancing the causes of peace and stability in Timor-Leste.

As the report notes, the security and political situation continues to be stable, allowing State institutions the space to focus on the country's longer-term challenges. This can be observed in the political debate, which has generally moved beyond backward-looking discussions on how to move past the events of 2006, to forward-looking discussions on how to build on the gains made and ensure the future prosperity and stability of Timor-Leste. This trend, thus far, has not been much affected by the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Mário Carrascalão or the indictments recently prepared against two members of the Cabinet.

Many plans, strategies and institutions have been developed with a longer-term focus in mind. These include the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste, the package of national security laws and the draft Strategic Development Plan. These are critical initial steps on the road ahead. However, their implementation and sustaining momentum in efforts to tackle systemic, institutional and political fragilities are the challenges currently faced by Timor-Leste.

I am pleased to note that the national leaders of Timor-Leste continue efforts to ensure inclusive consultation and dialogue on these long-term efforts. In that regard, I would highlight the retreat involving seven national leaders organized by the Catholic Church on 21 and 22 August to discuss current challenges facing the country, including sustainable development, and to nurture and support a new generation of future leaders. I understand that this initiative will continue, and I encourage participants to continue their mutual engagement in this and other national forums. Future such initiatives will have increasing opportunities for women and younger leaders to participate.

Similarly, the Prime Minister has reached out to the entire population on the draft Strategic Development Plan, conducting a series of visits over many months to each of the country's 65 subdistricts. Given the Plan's long-term nature, it is important that it reflect the aspirations of all the people in Timor-Leste. I look forward to the Government's continued engagement with all relevant actors on the Plan.

I also congratulate the Governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste for reaching an agreement on border-crossing authorization cards. The presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Marty Natalegawa, at the inauguration ceremony indicated the existing goodwill between the two countries.

The National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and UNMIT police deserve much of the credit for the current security and stability of the country. Good cooperation with the international security forces from Australia and New Zealand continues. I am pleased to note that there has been no significant change in the security situation in those districts where the PNTL has resumed primary policing responsibilities. I would like to highlight the fact that Liquiça, where the PNTL resumed primary policing responsibilities on 7 September, is led by the first woman PNTL district commander. This, I hope, signals increasing opportunities for women to advance within the PNTL.

Since the closing date of the report, the PNTL resumed primary policing responsibilities in Aileu district on 21 September, Manufahi district on 27 September, and in the Interpol Office, the Immigration Department and the Border Patrol Unit on 28 September. Resumption is pending in only three districts and six units, with Dili remaining perhaps the most challenging area, and I will speak on that in a moment.

With the sustained momentum of the jointly owned resumption process, the Government and UNMIT are working in close cooperation on strategies to guide the post-resumption challenges of continued PNTL capacity-building and institutional strengthening. UNMIT police created five new position profiles, tailored to reflect a growing focus on their role as mentors and trainers. I encourage police-contributing countries to provide officers who meet these new profiles and can effectively transfer skills to their PNTL counterparts. Applications for 19 civilian posts to work with the PNTL as mentors and trainers are also currently being assessed.

Meanwhile, capacity-building continues under the coordination of the PNTL Police Training Centre in areas such as equipment maintenance, vehicle fleet management, and basic and specialized police training. The Government has stated that the 2011 State budget, due to be presented to Parliament by 15 November, will include significant allocations to address outstanding logistical needs of the PNTL, including additional vehicles, communications equipment and generators.

One concern arising from the resumption process is that the number of uncertified PNTL officers remains high, at 202, and many have been transferred to Dili district. We have urged the Government to process these cases in order to conclude the certification process. The Government has informed UNMIT that it has created a mechanism within the Secretariat of State for Security, which has assumed the functions of the Evaluation Panel, and that this new mechanism would complete sorting out all the outstanding certification cases into two categories of discipline and criminal tracks by the end of the year. So far, this mechanism has yet to take any action on non-certified officers. This slow action with regard to uncertified PNTL officers is detrimental to the overall integrity of the police service over the long term and requires expeditious remedy.

Meanwhile, overall action plans have been developed to prepare Dili district for resumption. Close collaboration between the PNTL and its UNMIT police colleagues on their implementation will help the district meet the mutually agreed criteria for

resumption before the next assessment of the joint technical team. This next assessment could take place before the end of the year, depending on the district's readiness.

During this reporting period, the Government clarified that municipal elections would not take place until after national elections, currently projected to take place by mid-2012. Those national elections will be the first significant test of the PNTL's ability to provide security around a large and multifaceted event. Bearing that in mind, it is advisable to maintain a robust presence of UNMIT police and UNMIT formed police units of about 800 and 490 respectively, through the crucial period of national elections. In the meantime, UNMIT police will focus on the capacity-development of the PNTL specialized units that will eventually fully assume the role of UNMIT formed police units. This includes the prioritization of training for new officers, whose recruitment is projected to address personnel shortages in units such as Border Patrol and Close Protection. Emphasis will also be placed on basic and advanced training for the Special Operations Company and the newly established Weapons and Explosives Unit. Improvement of their capacities will increase the PNTL's ability to maintain public security after the withdrawal of UNMIT.

There has been steady progress in strengthening the justice sector. One sign of this is that the transition of international legal actors from line functions to advisory roles is gaining pace, with the number of national actors in the sector now increased to 49, including 18 women. A case management system for the Office of the Prosecutor-General is expected to go live by the end of this month, and the downward trend of pending cases in the Office continues.

The Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste provides an instrument to guide and coordinate the work of justice sector institutions. The challenge lies in ensuring that the Strategic Plan's implementation is effective and contributes to public confidence in the justice sector. Similarly, while the adoption of the law against domestic violence was a major milestone, the United Nations system is supporting efforts to ensure, in a coordinated manner, that the public, in particular rural populations, understands the legislation and that State institutions increase their capacity to implement it.

Public confidence in the State's willingness to support the rule of law and human rights can be adversely affected if the public perceives that individuals involved in high-profile cases are given favoured treatment. I expressed this concern to the President with regard to his decision to commute the sentences of those convicted for involvement in the 11 February 2008 attacks against him and the Prime Minister, and of the three soldiers of the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) convicted of homicide and attempted homicide in the shooting deaths of eight PNTL officers in 2006. The President acted within his constitutional prerogatives and consulted widely on this decision.

However, I hope that future such decisions will be guided by the need to bolster the public's confidence in a system that ensures accountability for criminal acts. Also, I am troubled that, as of 15 October, the three F-FDTL soldiers appeared to have resumed work, although I am encouraged by the President's assurance in a meeting on 18 October with my Deputy, Mr. Reske-Nielsen, that he had asked the Chief of the Defence Forces to take action on this matter.

There have been a number of positive developments related to gender mainstreaming during the reporting period. Most notably, on 28 June, Maria Helena Pires — who has been playing an important role in women's empowerment in Timor-Leste — was elected as one of 23 experts to serve on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

On 21 September, the plenary of Parliament began consideration of the draft laws on reparations and on the institution to follow up on the work of the Commission of Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Truth and Friendship Commission. Parliament engaged in a consultation process that incorporated a range of actors, including other State institutions, civil society, religious leaders and victims' organizations.

Unfortunately, on 29 September Parliament postponed the debate, and I hope that all parliamentary benches will come to the consensus necessary to expedite further consideration of the bills. These drafts are important because of their substance and because of the process that guided their development. Parliament made efforts to ensure that the wide range of views was taken into account, holding public hearings with

groups including other State institutions, religious faiths, victims' organizations, human rights organizations, community representatives and other civil society organizations.

On 20 September, in a speech made at the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) review summit (see A/65/PV.4), President José Ramos-Horta highlighted some of the gains Timor-Leste had made towards the MDGs and spoke of the need to fast-track achievement towards the MDGs. These gains have been underpinned by macroeconomic stability and high growth rates. Hopefully, the Strategic Development Plan will be an instrument to further promote human development and pro-poor growth, as well as to minimize inequalities between urban and rural areas.

In our discussions with Timorese authorities, we continue to emphasize the need to address the issue of high youth unemployment and the need for their absorption, initially by the public sector. The President has taken up issues of sustainable development in the international sphere, including his 16 February proposal with the Government of Maldives for climate-change initiatives that will contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication in Asia.

On 17 September, I held a meeting with President Ramos-Horta and the Government at which we agreed to the establishment of a joint mechanism that will guide UNMIT's transition planning. Its first quarterly meeting will be held in late November. This mechanism is intended to ensure that the transition process is consistent with Government strategies, such as the Strategic Development Plan, and that there is a smooth transfer of UNMIT functions to State institutions, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other international partners and civil society. I understand that Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão will brief the Security Council at its next meeting on Timor-Leste in February 2011. That is a strong indication of his Government's commitment to working together on planning the future activities related to the transition of UNMIT.

I want to emphasize that transition is a reconfiguration of the Mission's activities within its mandated areas to ensure that, when UNMIT does withdraw — and it will — it has done everything possible to ensure the future success of State institutions. This will include a growing emphasis on capacity-building, not only in policing but in all areas of UNMIT's mandate. Capacity-building by our partners will help facilitate the transfer of UNMIT functions to State institutions and civil society. Capacity-building for UNMIT's national staff will help prepare them to contribute to the future of Timor-Leste. UNMIT is already implementing capacity-building strategies for national staff with this goal in mind.

Another issue to be addressed by the high-level mechanism is the possible transfer of UNMIT assets to State institutions. If that does take place, it will require coordinated planning in order to ensure that appropriate systems and budgets are in place for the continued maintenance of assets. The mechanism will also examine ways to mitigate any possible negative economic impact of UNMIT's withdrawal.

Timor-Leste is entering a crucial period that will help determine whether it has overcome, in a sustainable manner, the political and institutional weaknesses that contributed to the events of 2006. Given the progress to date and the steadfastness demonstrated by the national leaders of Timor-Leste, in particular the President and Prime Minister, I believe that work is under way that will contribute to Timor-Leste's stability. In that regard, the responsible stance of the opposition is also noteworthy. UNMIT's transition plan through 2012 will be an essential part of this.

I wish to thank the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Finn Reske-Nielsen and Shigeru Mochida, and all of the personnel of UNMIT and the United Nations country team, who have made such important contributions to Timor-Leste's progress. I also wish to thank the international security forces for their continued support to UNMIT, including with respect to the maintenance of a stable security situation in Timor-Leste. Of course, none of this progress would have been possible without the continued determination of the people of Timor-Leste.

The President: I thank Ms. Haq for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

Mrs. Borges (Timor-Leste): First, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month, and to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Council today. I would like to commend the Secretary-General for the report before the Council

(S/2010/522) and for the comprehensive briefing just provided by his Special Representative, Ms. Ameerah Haq.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the leadership of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and Deputy Special Representatives and for their contribution to the successes achieved to date. In that regard, we were greatly saddened in March by the untimely passing of Deputy Special Representative Takahisa Kawakami, who worked tirelessly to support the security sector. We look forward to fruitful collaboration with his successor, Shigeru Mochida.

When Special Representative Haq addressed the Security Council in February 2010 (see S/PV.6276), she stated that Timor-Leste had reached a new stage in which current leaders were working to consolidate gains of the past and ensure a smooth transition to the recovery and development phase. Today, the same message has been echoed and Timor-Leste continues on that path of consolidation, as evidenced in the progress reported in key areas such as the ongoing handover of policing responsibilities in 10 out of the 13 districts; the promulgation of the national security legislation package; the finalization of the National Strategic Plan, in consultation with the wider community; the drawdown of the international stabilization force in response to the more stable and improved security environment; the overall improvement in the socio-economic outlook and the very important ongoing national dialogue, which is forward-looking and premised on the need to find sustainable solutions to the multiple challenges we face.

Those are examples of some of the accomplishments of the past year. However, we continue to face many challenges. In order to build on that momentum, Timor-Leste requires the support and continued engagement of the international community as we embark on this very important next phase. The events of 2006 are a stark and unfortunate reminder of the fragility of peace when the institutions of the State are nascent and capacities need to be developed and further strengthened.

Consequently, in his statement to the General Assembly this past September, President Ramos-Horta stated:

> "In only eight years and in spite of the overwhelming challenges facing us, we have navigated out of the storms to a new period of peace, stability and economic growth.
>
> "Timor-Leste is a least developed country, affected by pervasive poverty. We are still a fragile country, partly because we are only eight years old, and being an infant country, all the institutions of the State are young and fragile." (*A/65/PV.17*)

Peace and stability, economic growth and poverty reduction and justice and the promotion of human rights are therefore the main tenets of this current phase of Timor-Leste's nation-building agenda. We need to consolidate gains and further improve opportunities.

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the situation in Timor-Leste has remained calm, including in the 10 districts where the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) has resumed executive policing responsibilities. This is due to the increasing capacities of the PNTL, the continued police presence of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the assistance provided by the international security forces of Australia and New Zealand. The Government is committed to continuing momentum in the resumption process, while adhering to the mutually agreed criteria and timeline.

In that regard, the Secretary of State for Security is committed to resolving, in a timely manner, the remaining cases of uncertified PNTL officers. My Government is also committed to providing the necessary planning and budgetary support to ensure that PNTL logistical and capacity needs are met in accordance with our means.

We are now looking beyond the resumption process to a new stage in the strengthening of the PNTL, with intensified efforts to develop a sustainable national capacity and institutional development. This will be greatly facilitated by a continuing UNMIT police presence in all districts and units in sufficient numbers to provide further training, mentoring and advice to the PNTL. We also strongly support the addition of 19 civilian UNMIT posts to provide further opportunities for the development of PNTL capacities. In this regard, it is important that the recruitment process for these posts be expedited to ensure early deployment and that, in the selection process, the best skill sets are identified to suit the situation on the ground.

As a result of the increased stability and strong partnerships with the international community, the Government has been able to deliver on its commitment to ensuring socio-economic development and reducing poverty. Moreover, the Government is committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In this connection, we are pleased to note that a number of socio-economic indicators demonstrate that our commitment to development is indeed producing results through the prioritization of expenditure in public infrastructure projects in an effort to stimulate the economy while reducing poverty and improving the lives of the people. For example, poverty throughout Timor-Leste has been reduced by 9 per cent. Also, a recent study has concluded that that there has been a drop in the fertility rate from 7.8 to 5.7, in the infant mortality rate from 60 to 44 per 1,000, and in the under-five mortality rate from 83 to 64 per 1,000.

Timor-Leste has one of the youngest populations in the world, with nearly 60 per cent of the population under 25 years of age. To comprehensively address this issue, the Government is developing policies and programmes to generate jobs. As we are all aware, high levels of youth unemployment in post-conflict settings has posed and continues to pose challenges in the peacebuilding context. My delegation is mindful of this and acknowledges that our young people are among the most disaffected and disadvantaged group in our society. They have yet to reap the dividends of our hard-won freedom, which they eagerly expected and fought for. They need to be integrated through stronger participation in our nation-building efforts. In this regard, it is critical that the Government be proactive in the pursuit of appropriate, creative and innovative solutions to address this.

The Government is also committed to promoting and protecting human rights. Recent developments that have led to a strengthening of the justice sector include Government-provided training, workshops and mentoring for the Office of the Provedor. All these measures have increased accountability and access to justice in rural and urban areas alike. Similarly, we look forward to working closely with UNMIT and the United Nations agencies in implementing our Justice Sector Strategic Plan, based on the recommendations of the independent comprehensive needs assessment of the justice sector. This includes ensuring adequate legal protection of women and children. As part of our commitment to implementing gender responsive policies, my Government, through the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, is making concerted efforts to ensure that such policies are mainstreamed across all line ministries through the establishment of gender focal points. The adoption of the law against domestic violence is also testament to this commitment to advancing the rights of women.

We are also very proud to have recently had Ms. Maria Helena Pires elected to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and we are confident of the mutual benefits to be gained both in Timor-Leste and in the work of the Committee during her tenure there.

I would like to emphasize that the progress that has been made and the development objectives to which we have committed ourselves would not have been possible without the continuing solidarity and support of the international community. We are committed to working in close collaboration with all relevant United Nations agencies and the international community on efforts to address longer-term challenges facing Timor-Leste, including the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan. The National Strategic Development Plan provides the blueprint for the next 20 years for the Government and will enable development partners to align their programmes with the identified national priorities to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of resources.

The Government is committed to working closely with UNMIT through the joint mechanism that has been established to guide the Mission's transition planning. We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders and note the importance of national ownership in this dialogue process. It is only through a consultative and coordinated mechanism, taking into account the identified national priorities, that we can ensure sustainability of the process and outcomes.

I wish to emphasize the importance we place on relations with our friends and partners in the region, where we have taken a pragmatic and proactive approach of engagement to confront issues of common interest. The recent visit to Dili by His Excellency Mr. Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, to attend a ceremony to inaugurate a new cross-border card system aimed at facilitating travel between communities along our common border, family visits, and access to traditional markets, is

testimony to the strength of and importance both countries place on our bilateral relations. And our relations with Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal on issues of security and economic development, including in the petroleum sector, remain strong.

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that we Timorese remain optimistic and positive about our future. We cherish the progress made over the past decade in terms of institution-building, the provision of at least basic education and social services to an increasing number of our citizens, and the creation of economic opportunities outside the rural areas. At the same time, we are acutely aware of the many steep challenges ahead of us and the work that remains. We will be able to do this only in partnership with our friends in the region and with the members of the Security Council and the United Nations. Allow me therefore to express, on behalf of the Government and the people of Timor-Leste, our sincere gratitude for the continued and steadfast support of the United Nations and our international partners.

It is with this in mind that we ask the members of the Council and the international community to continue their engagement and to provide the necessary assistance in building a stable and prosperous Timor-Leste — a predictable partner in international relations, firmly embedded in the partnerships in its region, and a beacon of human rights at peace with itself.

The President: I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): I would like first of all to thank Special Representative Haq for her very comprehensive and encouraging briefing today. I would also like to thank the representative of the Government of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Borges, for her statement.

Over the past year, we have seen positive developments in Timor-Leste. The resumption of policing responsibility has been successfully concluded in 10 of 13 districts. In the districts where the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) has assumed policing duties, the situation remains calm and stable.

In this regard, allow me to recall the dedicated work of the late Mr. Takahisa Kawakami, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Security Sector Support and Rule of Law of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). We are determined to extend the same level of support to his successor, Mr. Shigeru Mochida, in carrying out his duties in Timor-Leste at this critical juncture.

It should be noted that the most difficult phase still awaits us in completing the resumption process. It is quite regrettable that there remain many uncertified police officers in Dili district, which stands as one of the biggest obstacles to the efforts of the PNTL to assume primary policing responsibility in Dili. While reaffirming the importance of the mutually agreed criteria-based approach to the resumption process, Japan encourages the Government of Timor-Leste to address this issue as early as possible.

At the same time, Japan would like to reiterate the importance of community policing, as referred to in Council resolution 1912 (2010). Based on our own experience, we believe that local security is best sustained through cooperation and trust between the local populace and police. Adequate logistics and management capability are indispensable for the police to work efficiently and effectively. Attention should also be paid to current gaps in the Mission's activities. In that regard, Japan plans to take up this issue in its capacity as chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations at its meeting on 22 October, with the participation of various troop-contributing countries, police-contributing countries and other stakeholders, such as major financial contributors and members of the international core group for Timor-Leste.

It is very gratifying to see that UNMIT enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful United Nations peacekeeping missions. Japan is honoured to have dispatched two officials to Timor-Leste as military liaison officers in support of UNMIT. Japan commends the variety of services that UNMIT and the International Stabilisation Force now provide, which range from security responsibilities to emergency helicopter transportation. At the same time, such services will not be extended indefinitely. It is not too early to discuss who will provide such services after UNMIT's scheduled withdrawal in 2012.

In this connection it is encouraging that Ms. Haq has agreed with the President of Timor-Leste to establish a high-level forum involving the United

Nations and the Government of Timor-Leste to discuss at regular intervals plans for the Mission's withdrawal. Japan will support this forum and is ready to contribute to the process at any time.

In that respect, Japan considers that discussion of the next extension of UNMIT's mandate in February will be of utmost importance. In that connection, we believe that the Security Council mission to Timor-Leste planned for the end of November will provide a good basis, not only for the members of the Council, but also for UNMIT and the Timor-Leste Government as well, to consider the Mission's exit strategy.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Japan's continued commitment to support post-conflict efforts in Timor-Leste. Japan has continued to stand by the Timorese people since the outset of their nation-building endeavour, and I promise that we will continue to do so.

Ms. Anderson (United States of America): Thank you, Ambassador Haq, for your briefing on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the Secretary-General's recent report (S/2010/522). Let me also thank you for your dedicated leadership and your commitment to solidifying peace in Timor-Leste.

My Government welcomes the Secretary-General's report on UNMIT's important work. The United Nations and the international community as a whole played a critical role in Timor-Leste's independence. Sustained international support will be critical to ensuring this young country's success. The interim report provides an important opportunity to think about Timor-Leste's needs and begin long-term planning for future United Nations engagement there.

Today let me focus on five key points. First, the United States is encouraged that Timor-Leste's security situation remains stable. We are further encouraged that this stability has continued despite a slight reduction in UNMIT's force size. We continue to support the roles of the United Nations and the development partners in assisting the Government of Timor-Leste as it further solidifies peace and security throughout the country. As Timor-Leste continues on the path from conflict to stability we are heartened to see that it can look at long-term challenges and plan for a peaceful, prosperous future.

Secondly, the transfer of primary policing responsibilities from UNMIT to the Timorese national police is critical to further cementing the country's stability. Building local capacity is the key to peacekeeping mission success and we commend UNMIT, the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and bilateral donors for their hard work in this area.

For peacekeeping missions to succeed, their mandates must match their capabilities, and we strongly support UNMIT's efforts to ensure that its police component has the appropriate specialized skills to emphasize skills-building and institutional development. But the excessive use of force and lack of accountability continue to be of concern for the PNTL. We urge the PNTL with UNMIT's support, to establish mechanisms to address these challenges.

We recognize the improved professionalism of the Timorese police and military, and we note Timor-Leste's progress in developing a national security policy. The United States is pleased to help facilitate that process through our multi-stakeholder national security workshops, hosted by the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

The United States is also pleased to note that, in order to help facilitate the full resumption of national policing, we will be increasing our bilateral assistance to further strengthen the PNTL over the coming years, including in the areas of community policing, criminal investigations and border and maritime policing. Developing competent and professional security institutions, police and military will be critical to Timor-Leste's long-term success. It is critical that the Government of Timor-Leste develop clear lines of authority and areas of responsibility for its military and police.

Thirdly, we are pleased by the progress that has been made towards implementing the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship. We are also encouraged by the launch of the Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste. These advances are critical to ensuring that the Timorese have faith in the justice sector, in continuing this act of dialogue and in furthering the national reconciliation progress.

But the commutations of the sentences of those convicted in the February 2008 attacks against the

President and Prime Minister contribute to our continuing concern about the danger of creating a culture of impunity. We urge the Government of Timor-Leste to address impunity and to hold individuals accountable for their actions.

We also note the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission; an environment of transparency and accountability is essential to sustainable development. The United States looks forward to working with the Government of Timor-Leste through our Millennium Challenge Corporation's new threshold programme.

Fourthly, let me congratulate UNMIT on the absence of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse during the reporting period. We were also pleased to note UNMIT's work with the PNTL to create and implement a training course on investigations of gender-based violence. We commend UNMIT for giving high priority to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as for its emphasis on training its personnel.

Finally, we are pleased to note that planning has begun for the transition process for UNMIT's departure. We have seen significant progress over the last reporting period, but UNMIT continues to play a vital role. UNMIT must continue to stress local capacity-building, and the Government of Timor-Leste must continue to strengthen institutions for peace and stability, so that they can take firm root throughout the country. We encourage UNMIT and the Government of Timor-Leste to continue their efforts and to create a gradual, methodical and thoughtful transition plan.

In closing, let me again thank the peacekeepers of UNMIT, as well as their Timorese partners on the ground and their international supporters, for the continued dedication to peace and security in Timor-Leste. The Timorese have made great strides towards peace and stability and we hope and trust that they will continue to do so with the presence and commitment of strong international partners.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/522) and also his Special Representative, Ameerah Haq, for her briefing today and thanking her and her colleagues in the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for their dedicated service. The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement to be given later this morning by the European Union delegation.

Like others, the United Kingdom is encouraged by the continuing stability in Timor-Leste. The security situation is calm and has shown clear and steady improvement since 2006. Once again, it is particularly pleasing to note that there has been no increase in crime or disorder following the gradual transfer of policing responsibilities back to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). We are encouraged by the continued progress towards the full handover of policing responsibilities. We note that there are still challenges to overcome in some parts of the country and, as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted, there have been difficulties with the certification of some serving PNTL officers. We therefore call on the Government of Timor-Leste to give priority to resolving those outstanding issues. It was good to hear what the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste had to say on that score. In parallel, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) should continue to build the capacity of the PNTL and focus on providing a high standard of training, mentoring and support.

In addition, the United Kingdom looks forward to a clear, phased timetable for the withdrawal of the United Nations police (UNPOL) officers. UNPOL personnel should already be drawing down in districts where they have successfully handed over to the PNTL. A sudden withdrawal in 2012 would be more destabilizing than starting the phased reduction now, which would in itself demonstrate the Council's belief in the PNTL's ability to re-establish itself. The Government of Timor-Leste can play an important role in this regard by ensuring that the police have sufficient equipment and logistical support.

We continue to highlight the importance of tackling impunity and bringing perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to justice. We particularly welcome the news on the progress of the follow-up to the Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and hope that Parliament will prioritize its consideration of the draft laws. We welcome the recent messages from Parliament and the Prosecutor-General speaking out against impunity, but like my United States colleague, I note with concern that the recent commutations of some sentences may send out a negative message on the robustness of Timorese justice and accountability.

The wider United Nations system must now work towards addressing the nation's longer-term needs in close collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste. In this regard, we are encouraged that the United Nations is actively thinking about how it can best continue to support Timor-Leste, once UNMIT has left. Detailed recommendations should be developed and shared with Security Council members in due course.

The 2012 elections are, of course, the most significant milestone on the horizon. The United Kingdom will continue to support UNMIT and the people of Timor-Leste throughout this transitional period. Our hope is that, once credible and peaceful elections have taken place, Timor-Leste will have a safe and secure future.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the situation in Timor-Leste. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her briefing and I commend her for the work done in Timor-Leste. I welcome Ambassador Sofia Borges, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, and thank her for her remarks.

Brazil attaches great importance to the stability and development of Timor-Leste. We maintain strong ties of friendship and cooperation with this fellow Portuguese-speaking country. Bilateral cooperation currently covers a wide range of areas, including education, vocational training, agriculture, reform of the justice sector, military and police training and elections.

We welcome the substantial progress Timor-Leste has made in the past years. The overall political and security situation is stable and a solid basis for socio-economic development is being laid down. It is also true that, "[f]urther efforts are required to overcome the political, institutional and socio-economic weaknesses that contributed to the events of 2006", as the Secretary-General reminds us in his latest report (S/2010/522). Keeping that in mind, Brazil will continue to assist the Timorese Government and people as best we can. We call upon the international community to also continue to provide its support.

Four issues deserve our particular attention today: security, elections, development and the future of UNMIT. First, with respect to the security situation, I cannot but commend the progress Timor-Leste has achieved and the indispensable support provided by UNMIT and bilateral partners. It is not a small feat that, since we last met here in February, the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) has resumed primary policing responsibilities in almost all districts and in six specialized units. More importantly, the Timorese police have been discharging their functions appropriately and efficiently. It is not a coincidence that there has been neither an increase in the crime rate nor in the number of major security incidents in districts where the PNTL has resumed primary policing activities.

Nevertheless, we should not underestimate the important role UNMIT must still play in providing security in Timor-Leste. The three important districts where the United Nations police (UNPOL) has retained policing responsibilities are rather sensitive: two of them are located on the border and the third one, Dili, is not only the most populated, but also the political heart of the country. The strategy for a successful transition in these districts is twofold: enhanced security and job creation, especially for the youth. Handing over responsibilities to the PNTL must be conducted with special prudence and rigour. We are fully confident in UNMIT's leadership and judgment on how and when to further transfer responsibility to the Timorese police.

The most important political test that Timor-Leste will face in the near future will certainly be the national elections of 2012. We all expect the voting to be conducted in such a way as to solidify democratic values and strengthen Timor-Leste's institutions and stability. UNMIT must be ready to provide the support and assistance that the Timorese Government may require. Brazil praises all political parties in the country for their continued engagement in the democratic debate, especially in Parliament, and encourages them to continue on that path, in particular during the electoral period.

The third issue on which I wish to comment briefly is social and economic development. My delegation notes with satisfaction the advances that have taken place in Timor-Leste in this regard. We commend the Timorese Government for having selected basic infrastructure and energy, rural development and human resources as the national priorities for 2011, and we urge donors and partners to align their assistance behind those priorities. We also praise Timor-Leste for managing to reconcile strong

economic growth with low inflation. We welcome the steep reduction in poverty levels and the progress made towards meeting key Millennium Development Goals, including the decrease in infant mortality rates. The efforts on the part of the Timorese authorities to ensure food security and prevent and combat diseases are also noteworthy. However, more international assistance will be required to assist Timor-Leste, expand food production and improve access to health and education.

My fourth and last point regards the future of UNMIT, to which Brazil has significantly increased its contribution by sending several senior police officers. In a few months, we will be discussing the Mission's mandate, which is due to expire in February 2011. That will be the time to assess the progress made, in particular in the security situation. At the same time, it will be important to consider the configuration of a peacekeeping presence that is commensurate with the remaining challenges, especially the forthcoming national elections. Brazil agrees with the careful approach taken by the Secretary-General. We should continue to draw lessons from the events of 2006, while recognizing and promoting progress on the ground. This should be coupled with a continued focus on training the PNTL, so that it can further strengthen its capacity.

In conclusion, my delegation believes that the political and socio-economic progress made by the Timorese and the smooth resumption of policing responsibilities by the PNTL so far show that we are getting closer to turning UNMIT into a full success story. We must now stay the course, with prudence and determination. Completing the good work in a sustainable manner should be our collective goal. We must also renew our support to the Timorese, acting both as an Organization and as individual States. Brazil will continue to do its part.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I first wish to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq for her informative and important briefing and her excellent work at the head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). Let me also welcome Her Excellency the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Borges, at this table and thank her for her important contribution to today's debate. Austria aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union later in the day.

We welcome the positive developments in UNMIT's mandated priority areas since the last debate of the Security Council on the situation in Timor-Leste eight months ago (see S/PV.6276). The closure of the last transitional shelter for internally displaced persons is a welcome development and an indicator of increasing stability in the country.

The draft National Strategic Development Plan can play an important role in making returns and reintegration sustainable through economic and social development. We welcome the inclusive approach taken in the elaboration of the Plan and the efforts made to ensure that it will deliver results for the rural population. It is our expectation that the draft Strategic Development Plan will also allow for more effective international support and increased national ownership in that area. We hope that its implementation will contribute to reducing unemployment, especially among young people.

Recent achievements in the field of governance, such as the establishment of the national Anti-Corruption Commission, are also to be commended. We hope that the Commission, once fully operational, will contribute to fostering the rule of law and the confidence of the Timorese people in State structures and institutions.

We welcome the fact that the recently launched Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste takes into account most recommendations of the independent comprehensive needs assessment. We look forward to the effective implementation of that Plan. It is our hope and expectation that it will further strengthen the formal justice sector and also contribute to improved protection of women's and children's rights. The recruitment of women into the judiciary and the provision of training to police and justice personnel will be important measures for coping with such challenges.

The establishment of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child and the adoption of new legislation relating to witness protection and to domestic violence are further significant developments in that regard. Full enforcement of the new laws will be critical, in particular in view of the high number of reported incidents of gender-based violence and human rights violations committed by members of the security services, and the difficulties encountered by victims in obtaining justice. We welcome UNMIT's support for the implementation of the new law against domestic

violence, as well as on human rights more broadly, as set out in the most recent UNMIT periodic report on human rights developments in Timor-Leste.

It is encouraging to see that certain steps have been taken towards accountability for crimes committed during the 2006 crisis, as recommended by the Independent Special Commission of Inquiry (see S/2006/628, para. 24). At the same time, the Secretary-General has referred to the limited number of cases brought to trial and the number of acquittals due to lack of evidence. We therefore share his view that further work is needed on the remaining challenges.

Accountability for the gross human rights violations committed during and prior to 1999 also remains an area of concern. We therefore encourage the Serious Crimes Investigation Team of UNMIT to continue its important work. We very much welcome the ongoing efforts to create an institution to take forward the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and those of the Commission of Truth and Friendship. It is good to see that Parliament has undertaken wide consultations in that context. We hope that, on that basis, discussions on the relevant draft laws will soon be resumed and concluded.

In the security sector, further progress has been made in the handover of primary policing responsibilities to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) and its registration, screening and certification process. It is also encouraging to see that the resumption process has proceeded so well in line with the mutually agreed criteria. We fully agree with the Secretary-General's view that the reconfiguration of the UNMIT police should be approached cautiously and that continued capacity-building through UNMIT and an increased focus on training and institutional development will be critical. We also believe that the accountability mechanisms of the PNTL, such as the enforcement of effective internal disciplinary measures, need to be further strengthened and monitored.

It is particularly encouraging that progress has also been made in creating an overall framework for security coordination. We hope that this will lead to comprehensive security sector reform, which will lead to further clarification of the respective roles and tasks of the police and the defence forces, especially in order to offer the latter a new and meaningful role in a peacetime setting, including through increasing participation in international peacekeeping efforts.

In closing, I wish to commend the Government and the people of Timor-Leste for the remarkable progress that their country has made. UNMIT is doing important work in support of Timor-Leste's future under the able leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and will continue to do so as Timor-Leste approaches the next national elections in 2012.

Looking further into the future, we must build on what has been achieved so far and carefully plan the transition to a longer-term United Nations engagement that helps to consolidate and build upon what has been achieved to date. Capacity-building should be at the centre of international efforts to further increase national ownership and ensure the long-term stability and prosperity of the Timorese nation.

We therefore welcome the recent establishment of a jointly owned mechanism to plan and implement the transition, and look forward to regular updates on that work. The planned Security Council mission to Timor-Leste in late November will provide the Council with a welcome opportunity to enhance its understanding of Timor-Leste's needs and aspirations in that regard. My country looks forward to participating in that mission.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her briefing today and for her commitment to fulfilling her mandate. We would also like to thank Ambassador Borges, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, for her contribution.

I believe that we all agree and are pleased to see that Timor-Leste has continued to enjoy an environment of security and stability, including during the current transfer responsibilities, under which the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste is gradually taking on the duties that to date have been carried out by the police component of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

With the reconfiguration of UNMIT's mandate and the current gradual drawdown of the Mission's police, expected to conclude in 2012, it is important to point out that this time frame must remain flexible, depending on the capacities of the national police and the security situation on the ground. The commitment

shown by the country's primary political actors and the efforts of the Governments of Indonesia and of Timor-Leste to strengthen a relationship of cooperation have contributed significantly to the stability in the country.

The coming two years will be key for Timor-Leste. Without disregarding the security aspect, the reconfiguration of UNMIT must involve greater support for developing national capacities, poverty-reduction policies, economic growth and rural development. The strategic plan for the use of natural resources and attracting foreign investment will also play a key role in the socio-economic stability of the country.

All these efforts, with the assistance of the international community, must focus on job creation, particularly for young people, who will ultimately steer the country's development. Similarly, it is important to consolidate the institutional capacities of the country's electoral bodies in order to ensure that the national elections to be held in 2012 will be carried out with the necessary transparency and credibility.

Another component essential to solidifying stability in the country is the promotion of national reconciliation and lasting peace. We reiterate that this is necessary in order to resolve the crimes committed during the crises of 1999 and 2006, in accordance with resolutions 1704 (2006), 1745 (2007) and 1802 (2008). Let us remember that the position of the United Nations is that amnesty and impunity are not an option for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. We applaud the measures the Government of Timor-Leste has adopted to strengthen the judicial system, guarantee full accountability, put an end to impunity and compensate the victims of serious violations of human rights in the country. In that context, we welcome the draft bill now being discussed in Parliament on the establishment of an institution to take over from and implement the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship.

Finally, we would like to recognize the work of the countries contributing to UNMIT and to stress the need to continue to plan for the transition in 2012, based on the country's national priorities and taking into account the gradual involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of international aid to the country and its national programmes.

Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ameerah Haq, for her briefing and her efforts as head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to strengthen peace, security and stability and to assist the Government and people of Timor-Leste in building their national institutions. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste for her statement.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2010/522) reflects recent positive developments in Timor-Leste that are the result of the sincere desire of all political parties, in the Government and in opposition, to steer their country towards stability and prosperity after long years of suffering. There is no doubt that UNMIT, which was established after the events of 2006, has been a success story for the international community. It has contributed, along with other United Nations entities, to strengthening the democratic process and building the State's institutions.

There are still a number of challenges, however, requiring a two-track approach. The first is to consolidate the important achievements that have been made so far in the areas of political stability and security, completing the building of security institutions and the judicial sector, strengthening the rule of law and inculcating a democratic culture. The second track is to work for socio-economic development in a manner consonant with the Millennium Development Goals, in order to remove Timor-Leste from the list of the world's least developed countries and onto that of middle-income States.

Lebanon reaffirms its full support for UNMIT in its work to fulfil its four major responsibilities: reviewing and reforming the security sector, strengthening the rule of law, achieving socio-economic development, and consolidating a culture of dialogue and democratic rule. In this regard, I wish to make the following remarks.

First, building security institutions is a prerequisite for lasting peace, and we commend the role that UNMIT police have played in training and supporting the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste to assume responsibility for security throughout Timor-Leste. In that regard, we welcome the assessment contained in the Secretary-General's report that the

security situation remains stable, with no serious incidents or increase in violent crime reported.

Secondly, we welcome the fact that President Ramos-Horta has issued regulations and instructions regarding the security sector, in addition to a comprehensive strategy for judicial reform.

Thirdly, strengthening the rule of law and accountability and combating impunity is fundamental to lasting security and an issue of principle for my delegation. We support President Ramos-Horta's initiative aimed establishing peace and national unity and at inculcating a culture of dialogue and democracy in all sectors of society. In that context, we welcome the closing of the last remaining transitional shelter for internally displaced persons.

In the area of socio-economic development, we welcome the positive economic statistics included in the report, which indicate that the country's economic growth is projected to exceed 10 per cent in 2010. We believe, however, that the steep growth in the unemployment rate, especially among young people, is a potential social time-bomb that may lead to serious security problems in future if it is not addressed. This is particularly true given that more than 60 per cent of the population is under 25, as noted by the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste. In this regard, we welcome the technical assistance that the International Labour Organization is providing to the Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment.

Fourthly, the elections to be held in 2012 will be an important milestone in the democratic approach taken by Timor-Leste, and we urge all political parties to participate actively in preparing for them. We also call on the international community to provide the Government of Timor-Leste with all necessary assistance in this area. We welcome Ms. Haq's mention of the initiative to establish a joint high-level mechanism between UNMIT and the Timor-Leste authorities during the transitional period. We encourage all parties concerned to take maximum advantage of UNMIT's expertise, and on that basis to continue the cooperation between the United Nations and Timor-Leste's Government.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize the need for the international community to continue to provide support to Timor-Leste. We welcome the improvement in the country's relations with its neighbouring States. We believe that it is high time for this nascent State to play a larger role in its region.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): We join other delegations in thanking the Secretary-General for his latest report on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2010/522). In addition, we extend our thanks to Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, and express our appreciation for her important contribution and tireless work. We would also like to welcome the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste and thank her for her contribution to this debate.

In addition, we commend the crucial role that the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste plays in support of Timor-Leste's efforts to achieve progress in many different areas, including in the security, political, institutional and socio-economic fields. Moreover, Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to commend the Timorese people, Government and political parties, as the overall situation during the reporting period remained calm and stable.

We are encouraged to learn that President Ramos-Horta has continued his dialogue initiative on the theme "Road to peace and national unity", thus supporting reconciliation and peace initiatives in urban and rural communities. We believe that such efforts may serve as an important step, which we hope will have a positive impact on the lives of many in Timor-Leste.

Strengthening security-sector reform is crucial for sustainable peace and security in Timor-Leste. While we welcome the resumption by the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) of primary responsibilities for police operations in several districts since May 2009, we are also hopeful that the process will be finalized by the end of this year in all districts and all units. In order to achieve this goal, further institutional development and capacity-building within the PNTL are of particular importance. There must be a clear delineation of responsibility between the PNTL and the Falintil Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste. A comprehensive reform process for both should be carefully developed and completed.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his report, the Timorese authorities have taken significant steps to strengthen national capacities and to enhance the effectiveness of the justice sector. We therefore

particularly welcome the launch of the Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste.

Bosnia and Herzegovina firmly believes that the reintegration of internally displaced persons is inextricably linked with both achieving and maintaining lasting peace and strengthening democratic institutions and processes. In that context, we warmly welcome the closure of the last transitional shelter for internally displaced persons.

We firmly believe that only truth and justice can lead the country towards full reconciliation and prosperity. In that regard, we commend the submission of draft laws on the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship to the President of the Timorese Parliament. The more successful the fight against impunity is, the better the prospects for true reconciliation and national unity.

Socio-economic problems must be addressed in an effective and coordinated manner, with all stakeholders onboard, including the private sector, civil society and foreign donors. Infrastructure projects, foreign investment and improvements in youth employment will contribute to poverty reduction and promote sustainable economic growth.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is of the opinion that the general elections to be organized in 2012 will be of critical importance and a true test of Timorese democratic progress. We welcome the role of UNMIT and the United Nations Development Programme in assisting electoral management bodies to consolidate institutional capacities in order to enable them to conduct the upcoming elections with limited international support.

In conclusion, we reiterate our full support for the continued and steady progress Timor-Leste is making on its path to a stable, secure and democratic society while simultaneously strengthening both its economic and developmental capacities. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the efforts of the people and the Government of Timor-Leste and encourages them to proceed with the same determination towards a better future — a future of peace, security and prosperity.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haq for her comprehensive briefing on the recent developments in Timor-Leste. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste for her statement.

We are pleased to see that, as a result of the efforts of the Government and the people of Timor-Leste and the vigorous support of the international community, the overall situation in Timor-Leste over the past year has remained stable. President Ramos-Horta has continued with his dialogue initiative entitled "Road to peace and national unity", and various parties have maintained the momentum of political dialogue.

The Government has formulated its National Strategic Development Plan for the economic development of the country in the next 20 years. The increase in input by the Government in the areas of health and education has played a positive role in improving people's lives. The Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) has started to gradually take over policing responsibilities and to increase its law enforcement capacity. At the same time, we should also realize that Timor-Leste still faces many challenges to develop the economy, improve people's lives and maintain stability. In that connection, I wish to make three comments.

First, to realize long-term peace and security in Timor-Leste, various political factions should continue to seek to resolve their differences through democratic dialogue. In order to effectively respond to the various challenges Timor-Leste faces, it is crucial for the various parties, especially the Government and the Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste, to put aside their differences and engage in full cooperation.

We appreciate the efforts by President Ramos-Horta and Special Representative Haq to promote dialogue among various parties. We call on the country's stakeholders to make the interests of the nation and the people the top priority, seize the current favourable opportunity to restore peace and achieve development and lead the people of Timor-Leste in focusing on promoting the national process of peace and reconstruction.

Secondly, in order to achieve long-term peace and security in Timor-Leste, it is necessary to constantly improve the country's own capacity to maintain security and stability. We support the PNTL in continuing to take over policing responsibilities. At the same time, in the course of its drawdown and reconfiguration, the United Nations Integrated Mission

in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) should also give full attention to policing needs in various parts of the country. While ensuring the security and stability of the country, UNMIT should, in accordance with the local situation and the views of various parties, focus on helping the PNTL to enhance its own law enforcement capacity and expand training for Timor-Leste police.

Thirdly, to achieve long-term peace and security in Timor-Leste, it is necessary to make great efforts to develop the economy and improve people's lives. We support the Government in continuing to strengthen social stability while also focusing on its development efforts on infrastructure and human resources capacity-building and working to develop the economy and improve the employment rate of the population, so as to fundamentally eliminate factors that cause social instability. The international community should continue to provide various forms of assistance in line with the development strategy of the country in order to speed up the country's process of peaceful reconstruction.

China appreciates the work done by Special Representative Haq and UNMIT and supports the Mission in continuing its hard work in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Council. We hope to see the final smooth withdrawal by UNMIT from Timor-Leste, which will set an example for United Nations peacekeeping operations in formulating and implementing exit strategies. After the withdrawal of UNMIT in the future, the United Nations should continue to provide assistance to Timor-Leste in line with the wishes of the Government.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ameerah Haq for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2010/522).

We thank Mrs. Sofia Borges, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, for her substantive statement. We are pleased with the stabilization of the military and political situation in Timor-Leste and the progress made in key areas of country's development. Undeniable credit for this situation goes to the leadership of Timor-Leste and of the United Nations Mission. The political forces of Timor-Leste demonstrate responsibility and commitment to the process of national dialogue and reconciliation, based on democratic principles. Further constructive development of the political dialogue — and of the political process in general — is paramount, particularly in the context of the general elections slated for 2012.

The relatively stable situation is making it possible to address long-term challenges. Nevertheless, the progress made needs to be further consolidated. The institutions of governance of this young nation are being formed, and there are still serious socioeconomic problems. Given the range of problems, the country continues to need the support of the international community.

In that context, strengthening the national security forces is paramount for the restoration of stability and is an important indicator of how independent the country is. We are closely following the process of the transfer of responsibilities for the maintenance of law and order from the United Nations Mission to the police force of Timor-Leste. We note that there has been considerable progress in this area. However, consolidation of this progress requires the intensification of efforts to build the capacities of the police and to provide appropriate training and logistic support. In that connection it is important that the timetable for the transfer of responsibilities be based on criteria worked out with the leadership of the country as determined by the preparedness of the police units, rather than on an artificially set schedule.

We support the intent of the Secretary-General to begin discussions with the leadership of Timor-Leste on issues related to the future activities of the United Nations Mission and its parameters. We look forward to further recommendations on reconfiguring the United Nations presence, which will need to take into account the realities in the country. Our position is that the upcoming Security Council mission to Timor-Leste in November will allow us to further gauge the situation and gather first-hand information on the specific challenges and needs of the country that are relevant today.

In conclusion, we would like to express to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the entire staff of the Mission our gratitude for their professionalism. Russia is providing assistance to the United Nations activities in that country — specifically, Russian police officers continue to serve in the Mission.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for her briefing, which has given us an overview of what has taken place since 2006 and the creation of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The representative of the European Union will shortly make a statement, and France associates itself with that statement.

I wish to make a few comments. I am pleased to note that the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/522) and the statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General have characterized the situation in Timor-Leste as calm. The political and security stability in the country is a result of the responsible positions taken by the elected officials in the Government and the opposition. What better proof can there be of the political maturity gained by the Timorese and of the solidity of their young institutions.

As we progress beyond tensions and violence we must keep in mind the goal of peacebuilding in Timor-Leste. From that standpoint we can only be encouraged by the controlled transfer of the duties with regard to law and order to the national police force in Timor-Leste. The transfer has been carried out in 10 out of the 13 districts without seeing an increase in incidents in those areas. The remaining transfers in Dili and in the border districts must not be carried out in haste. They must be done based on criteria established by local authorities and the United Nations.

This process is accompanied by a progressive reduction in the number of United Nations police officers deployed individually and that reduction is to be pursued in 2011. The drawdown should be supported through technical assistance and training. Strengthening police capacity is a priority but we must not lose sight of the fact that in the medium term all security sectors must benefit from these efforts.

Peace will only take root if the Timorese have faith in their justice system. In particular, fighting impunity for crimes carried out in the past is an essential condition for lasting reconciliation. The certification process of Timorese police officers is incomplete, and there are some 200 cases still pending. Moreover, the Secretary-General's report points out that there has been little progress in trying those individuals responsible for crimes and human rights violations committed during the incidents of 2006. We hope that those efforts will be pursued in line with the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. We have taken note, as have others, of the decision by the President of Timor-Leste to commute the sentences of some individuals who are responsible for political violence. Although that decision is constitutional, it does not send a good signal. We therefore encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to remain actively involved in this matter, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to her by the Security Council.

We have also noted the economic forecasts contained in the report. They show that there is impressive growth of 10.4 per cent, and a drop in the poverty level as well. It is encouraging that in this context the Timorese authorities have set their long-term priorities within a national development strategic plan, which is now, thanks to the Prime Minister himself, under consideration throughout the country.

The year 2012 will see the end of the UNMIT mandate in its present configuration and it will also see general elections. The United Nations must be able to have on site the material and human resources required to facilitate the holding of the elections. They must take account of that important deadline in their security transfer strategy. The renewal of the UNMIT mandate in February 2011 should also lead us to reflect on the future presence of the United Nations. We are open to the modalities that must reflect the progressive assumption by the Timorese of the tasks now being carried out by UNMIT and the objective of lasting peacebuilding.

The upcoming Security Council visit to Dili, in which we will participate, will be another opportunity for us to see how much has been done and to reflect on the future relationship between Timor-Leste and the United Nations.

I wish to conclude by reaffirming France's support for UNMIT and for Special Representative. Ms. Haq had just assumed her responsibilities in February 2010. Since then she has shown how skilled she is and she has met all our expectations. We need her skill and good will, because the months to come will be crucial for the future of Timor-Leste and also for the United Nations and its capacity to bring a country to peace and stability.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I also would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-

General, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her comprehensive statement and her invaluable contribution to the peace process in Timor-Leste.

I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences for the demise of Mr. Takahisa Kawakami, Deputy Special Representative for Security Sector Support and Rule of Law. I welcome the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Mrs. Sofia Borges, and thank her for her presentation. I would like to limit my remarks to the issues of political development, humanitarian and social development and the security and judicial system.

We welcome the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/522) and the climate of calm and stability in Timor-Leste during the reporting period. That situation has undoubtedly facilitated the focused implementation of the Government's National Strategic Development Plan. The continuous operationalization of the Plan — and its transformation into a series of medium-term development plans within an agreed time frame — is highly commended. We urge donors to provide the assistance required to cover the deficit in the Strategic Plan and also to provide long-term predictable support.

Investments in the three economic pillars identified by the Government, namely, agriculture, natural resources and tourism, if properly harnessed, will engender economic growth and accelerate the pace of development in the country. Indeed, the prospects of transforming Timor-Leste from its present status as a low-income country to high-income status in the next 20 years is realizable if the Government steadily implements the Plan.

The constructive interaction between the various political parties and major stakeholders in guaranteeing peace, harmony and continuity in governance is commended. We note in particular the Government's "Road to peace and national unity" initiative, which has helped to foster dialogue and reconciliation among the parties. We welcome the pronouncements of the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente (Fretilin) urging the parties to approach the future with renewed determination to achieve peace, stability and development. The parties should be guided by those pronouncements while undertaking the review of the voter registration process and strengthening the electoral bodies for the 2012 elections.

We also welcome the resolve to assign a greater role to women and youth in governance, as that will allow for the incorporation of a balanced gender perspective in the decision-making process. It will also promote implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as Council resolution 1325 (2000), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and resolution 1704 (2006). The Government's two-year training initiative for members of the Youth Parliament will equip young people with the leadership and other skills needed to make meaningful contributions on key policy issues. The contributions of United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF in that regard are appreciated.

On the humanitarian and social development aspects, although Timor-Leste is no longer facing a humanitarian crisis, the devastation caused by the recent widespread flooding and landslides should be given adequate attention. We commend the efforts of UNMIT, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme to provide food and technical and logistic support to the Government and people of Timor-Leste. The international community should not let up in strengthening its response capacity to address that natural disaster.

With regard to security, we welcome the stable situation in the country and the increased policing responsibilities of the national police (PNTL) in four more districts. To achieve the timeline for the full transfer of policing responsibilities to the PNTL, especially in the remaining three districts, the capacity needs of the force should be met through training, mentoring and senior development. The PNTL should continue to take measures to build trust and confidence with the people.

Effective disarmament mechanisms, command and control structures, weapon control mechanisms and planning processes, as well as adequate logistic support, are so critical for the creation of a strong and effective PNTL. Human rights violations, impunity and gender-based crimes by members of the security services impinge on the credibility of the services and should be addressed.

We note the Government's anti-corruption efforts, including the Anti-Corruption Commission and the

appointment of an Anti-Corruption Commissioner and two deputies. We commend UNMIT for posting international and national advisers to the Commission to bolster its efforts.

We support the ongoing gradual phased drawdown of UNMIT police and look forward to the next assessment, which will determine the final drawdown phase. With the expiration of the recruitment notices in September, the United Nations must confront the challenges of recruiting qualified United Nations police to advise and train PNTL officers.

We also look forward to the Council's upcoming visit to Timor-Leste, which will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive assessment of the challenges facing UNMIT.

In concluding, we wish to comment UNMIT and the United Nations country team for their continued support to the people and Government of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): At the outset I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/522) and his Special Representative, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her comprehensive briefing to the Council. We support her efforts and the key coordinating role of the United Nations in Timor-Leste. We express our condolences at the passing away of Mr. Takahisa Kawakami. We welcome Ambassador Borges, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, and thank her for her intervention.

Like others, we are very pleased to note that the security situation has remained relatively calm and stable. I want to commend that the Timorese people, Government and political parties for showing restraint and for their continued efforts at dialogue. The Timorese have wisely used this considerable stabilization by addressing long-term key issues, such as the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan, the Justice Sector's Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste, and the creation of an Anti-Corruption Commission.

In the same vein, it is praiseworthy that in 10 of the 13 districts primary policing responsibilities have been handed over by the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to the Timorese national police. We are also pleased to note that the resumption of primary police responsibilities by the national police (PNTL) has not led to an increase in criminal activity. We welcome the further progress achieved in the registration, screening and certification programme for the PNTL. It seems, however, that there are quite a few logistical and training requirements that have to be met in order to complete the handover process. We carefully note the drawdown foreseen for the end of June next year, which will reduce the UNMIT police by almost 20 per cent — from 1,023 to around 800 officers.

As conditions improve and stability continues, it is quite logical to start thinking about the transition period and the eventual exit of UNMIT. However, we believe that things should not be rushed and that UNMIT's mandate and force composition should not be further altered, as the 2012 elections will be a crucial test for the stability of the country. In that regard, we believe that it is of the utmost importance that the Timorese Government — but also the police-contributing countries and donors — focus their efforts on building the capacity of the Timorese police force in particular and of State institutions in general.

Likewise, we continue to concur with the Secretary-General's call for defining a meaningful role for the Timorese army in a peacetime setting. In February last year we suggested in the Council that the army could be oriented and trained to contribute to peacekeeping operations. Thus we are pleased to note that the Government has embraced that idea and that the UNMIT military liaison officers conducted a mentoring programme for Timorese officers. We believe that UNMIT and Timorese authorities should continue to work along those lines.

Although the growth projected for Timor-Leste is impressive, the Government and the parties should be aware that further efforts are needed to overcome the political, economic and social challenges that contributed to the 2006 crisis. In particular, the high rate of unemployment among the youth is not only worrisome for the economic development of the country but continues to pose a possible risk to the country's security.

Given the progress achieved so far, we are confident that Timor-Leste will eventually overcome all the challenges. However, that requires continued national dialogue and unity. We also believes that Timor-Leste requires ongoing support from the international community in its quest for peace, stability and prosperity. We thus encourage an assessment of the

situation in the transitional period until the 2012 elections in order to define the best format for the United Nations presence after the completion of UNMIT's mandate. In that regard, the Security Council visit to Timor-Leste next month will surely be useful, and we look forward to participating.

On the other hand, it goes without saying that we should listen carefully to the views of the Timorese, as this quest for stability is a nationally owned process. Turkey contributes police officers to UNMIT and will continue to support the United Nations and Timor-Leste.

I would like to conclude by wishing continued success to the Timorese people and Government.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation thanks Ms. Ameerah Haq for her briefing on the activities of the United Nations Integration Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) during the period from 21 January to 20 September 2010. We are also grateful to the representative of Timor-Leste for her important statement.

My statement will primarily address the political, security and development aspects of the situation.

With regard to the political situation, Gabon renews its support to the Government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to safeguard national unity through dialogue and consultation. We encourage the parties to continue their collaboration with the Government in the context of the "Road to peace and national unity" initiative. I take this opportunity to welcome the ongoing cooperation of the Alliance for a Parliamentary Majority with other political parties with a view to contributing to the establishment of a climate of durable peace in Timor-Leste. The completion of that dialogue will guarantee the long-term political and institutional stability of the country.

Gabon welcomes the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to organize credible and transparent elections. In that regard, we commend the technical assistance provided to the Government jointly by UNMIT and the United Nations Development Programme in election organization and institutional capacity-building.

With regard to security, we would like first to welcome the peaceful climate prevailing in the country. The contribution made by civil society in that regard, in particular religious organizations, is commendable.

My delegation appreciates the measures taken by the Government with a view to strengthening the legal system and the capacities of the national police force. We welcome the role of UNMIT police in the process of transferring policing responsibilities to the Timorese police. We appeal for adequate financial resources from the donor community to support the training programmes for the Timorese police and to equip them with appropriate operational resources.

We also support the partnership between UNMIT police and the national police in the context of the transition. In the same vein, it is important that the Government define the areas of jurisdiction of the army and the police in order to improve relations between those two entities.

Given the important role that the Strategic Development Plan will play in the future of the country, we wish to commend the efforts of the Prime Minister to take into account the aspirations of communities throughout the country. My delegation encourages the Government to continue in those efforts of good governance, in particular with regard to the use of income from the petroleum sector. We urge it too to continue investing in human resources, which are so necessary for its development.

I could not conclude my remarks without praising the good-neighbourly relations that exist between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, which are proof of the will of the Timorese Government to work in close cooperation with the countries of the region. We would also like to reiterate our support of the Timorese Government and people in their commitment to stability and development of their young nation. Likewise, we assure Ms. Haq of our full support, and we wish to commend her vigorous leadership of UNMIT.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Uganda.

I join Council members in thanking Special Representative Ameerah Haq for her comprehensive briefing. I also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste and thank her for her statement.

We commend the Government and people of Timor-Leste for the steady progress being made in advancing peace, stability and development, in spite of the remaining challenges. The revitalization of the

economy, as evidenced by the projected economic growth of 10.4 per cent in 2010, provides a sound basis for socio-economic development. We note that the Government, with the support of the International Labour Organization, is taking steps to address the challenges of high unemployment, especially among young people, by providing skills development through vocational training.

We welcome the continued strengthening of Timorese institutions. The formulation of the National Strategic Development Plan for the next 10 years is a step in the right direction. It is encouraging that the Plan is receiving feedback from the whole country, reinforcing national ownership of the Plan.

The resumption of policing responsibilities by the Timor-Leste national police is welcome. It is essential that there be sustainable institutional development for the national police through training and logistical support. We welcome the measures taken by the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to enhance police capacity. The ongoing recruitment of 19 civilian experts within UNMIT police to enhance skills-building and institutional development in the national police is also welcome. It is important that that exercise be concluded in a timely manner.

Finally, we thank the Special Representative and the UNMIT staff, as well as the country team, for their good work.

I resume my function as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Ali (Malaysia): I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, and Uganda for having assumed the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October 2010. We have no doubt that under your able leadership, the Council will continue to deliberate and take action on those most pressing questions regarding the maintenance of international peace and security.

Malaysia has continued to follow with avid interest the progress of our neighbour, Timor-Leste. We thank the Secretary-General for his most recent report on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2010/522) and the briefing provided by Ms. Ameera Haq, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Malaysia is encouraged by the recent improvement in the security situation, which augurs well for the ongoing work on the resumption of policing responsibilities by the national police of Timor-Leste (PNTL). We are also encouraged by — and congratulate the Government of Timor-Leste with regard to — the recent report, which indicates that Timor-Leste had made advances in strengthening the security and justice sectors and enhancing human rights by making the PNTL responsible and accountable for all its actions.

I said to the Council in February 2010:

> "adherence to the rule of law is crucial to ensuring the respect of the people for its own security forces. Accountability for criminal acts must not only be seen to be paramount but must also be so, as it is the cornerstone of trust in the system." (*S/PV.6276, p. 22*)

Malaysia is encouraged that the ongoing process begun in May to help establish a professional and credible police force in the country has been chalking up success after success following the good work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNMIT. Today, we are witnessing the Timorese national police force resume primary responsibility for the nation's Immigration Department, the Border Patrol Unit and the Interpol Office from the United Nations as the gradual transfer of security functions continues. We are also aware that policing responsibilities have so far been handed over to the PNTL FOR 10 districts, leaving only three districts under United Nations policing command. However, we urge the continued presence of United Nations police in those districts where the PNTL has resumed responsibilities to monitor, advise and support the national force.

Following those achievements, Malaysia is of the opinion that the Government of Timor-Leste should focus more attention on the socio-economic development of the country. We urge the Government to invest in more infrastructure and facilities that could create socio-economic activities and jobs, which would benefit the local population, in particular young people. In this regard, Malaysia will continue to undertake to encourage its own businessmen and investors to consider Timor-Leste as a viable business partner.

Malaysia reaffirms its continued support and cooperation to Timor-Leste at the multilateral level

through UNMIT, where we have one formed police unit and 90 police personnel serving in the United Nations police. Bilaterally, we will continue to assist Timor-Leste through our Technical Cooperation Programme. We will also continue to provide training to Timorese armed forces personnel through the Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme. To date, we have trained 24 of the Timorese personnel under that programme.

In closing, Malaysia would like to put on record our heartfelt condolences to the Government of Japan and to the family of the late Mr. Takashisa Kawakami, former Deputy Special Representative for Security Sector Support and the Rule of Law for UNMIT. The late Mr. Takashisa Kawakami contributed immensely to progress in bringing about stability and changes for the betterment of the Timorese nation.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Australia keenly appreciates the Council's continued attention to the situation in Timor-Leste and the opportunity to speak in the debate. We are very pleased to see you presiding over this meeting, Sir.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/522) and his Special Representative, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her briefing this morning. We equally welcome the statement by the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Borges. We recognize the continuing importance of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), very well led by Special Representative Haq. I would, of course, also like to convey our condolences on the death of Deputy Special Representative for Security Sector Support and Rule of Law, Mr. Kawakami.

As the Secretary-General's report outlines, the Timorese Government has made very real progress in addressing the many security and development challenges that the country faces and — in particular — in further consolidating the vital legislative and institutional elements of the State. The level of political maturity that has emerged is very welcome and will continue, of course, to be decisive. In the past year, poverty has decreased by 9 per cent and the non-oil sector of the economy has averaged strong annual growth since 2008.

Despite those improvements, however, as we know difficult challenges inevitably remain. Poverty is high, the health of women and children is poor, and there are limited jobs for a growing population. In particular, youth unemployment is rising, risking violence and social instability. As we said to the Council in February (see S/PV.6276), youth unemployment is a decisive issue. Also rising is the level of urbanization, which is equally a potential factor for social instability.

For these and other reasons, it remains critical, of course, that the international community continue to support capacity-building in Timor-Leste's institutions, particularly in the security sector and in regard to governance. National elections, scheduled for 2012, will be a key milestone, but may also prove to be a challenge, as we know, for the developing institutions in Timor-Leste. It is important, therefore, that UNMIT drawdowns be conditions-based and take into account prevailing capacities. It is also important to take a long-term view of any proposals to change the UNMIT mandate or budget. Planning for the long-term viability of Timor-Leste should take precedence over short-term budget considerations.

We welcome greater Timorese responsibility and control over policing. The resumption of primary policing responsibility by the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) in most districts and units indicates that the PNTL is moving very much in the right direction. Australia encourages the continued handover of policing responsibility once the remaining districts meet the agreed conditions.

The Secretary-General's report also highlights that the certification process for the PNTL is still not concluded and needs to be addressed to enable the handover process to be completed. We also join the call for the Timorese Government to take into account seriously, in its budgetary and planning processes, the PNTL's logistical needs.

Australia welcomes the United Nations efforts to ensure that the skills of the United Nations police deployed in Timor-Leste fit with the new post-handover role, and also welcomes the additional 19 civilian posts that will help strengthen the PNTL as an institution. We hope these positions will soon be filled and on the ground, doing the job they have been mandated to do. Likewise, it is important that the United Nations police continue a mentoring role,

particularly to enhance the community policing aspect of the PNTL. Any drawdown in United Nations police numbers needs to reflect the security environment at the time. Further reductions will reinforce the need for United Nations personnel to have the necessary technical and training skills for effective and sustainable capacity-building.

Australia, through the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) and our contribution to the United Nations police, will of course continue to support the Timorese Government and UNMIT in maintaining security. We note that, since February 2008, there have been no serious security incidents in Timor-Leste requiring intervention by the ISF. With the support of the Timorese Government, Australia and New Zealand have drawn down their contributions to the ISF to approximately 460 personnel. Australia continues to review its contribution to the ISF, consistent with the security environment. Future personnel reductions will be made only in close consultation with the Timorese Government, the United Nations and other international partners.

Australia recognizes the importance of building Timor-Leste's capacity to provide for its future security. We are working directly with Timor-Leste to improve the capacity of its security forces through substantial bilateral programmes to train the PNTL and the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste.

Aside from continued security, it is of course vital to ensure continued economic development and improvement occurs in the lives of ordinary Timorese. Australia has heard the Timorese Government's clear message that the people of Timor-Leste must drive their own development agenda. To this end, we acknowledge and welcome the release of the draft Strategic Development Plan. We especially recognize the impressive process of consultation undertaken personally by Prime Minister Gusmão in its development.

As the largest donor in Timor-Leste, we stand ready to support the Government's efforts to secure a stable and prosperous future. This year, we will deliver over $100 million in aid to Timor-Leste. Our support will help create employment by assisting Timor-Leste to improve agricultural productivity, infrastructure, vocational education, private sector development, and, importantly, such labour intensive works as road maintenance, which give jobs to young people. It will also support the delivery of health and education services, and the Government's efforts to improve its own accountability.

Australia welcomes Timor-Leste's strengthening of its regional relationships. Timor-Leste chaired the recent Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste trilateral meeting of foreign ministers during leaders' week in New York last month. Australia values highly the regular trilateral dialogue, which reflects the strength of our shared history and achievements and provides a very genuine opportunity for strengthening our joint cooperation.

We particularly welcome the proposed visit of the Security Council to Timor-Leste. We are confident that the Council and all of us will benefit from a contemporary on-the-ground assessment. We also look forward to updates from the Secretary-General on UNMIT's transition planning, and to working very closely in its development with the Timorese Government. The 2012 elections must be a key element in our thinking about transition.

In conclusion, progress has been made and continues to be made. More needs to be done, both for economic development and security sector reform. As we know, the elections in 2012 will be a crucial marker. As the Secretary-General's report notes, further efforts are required to overcome the political, institutional and socio-economic weaknesses that contributed to the events of 2006. For its part, Australia remains irrevocably committed to working for a successful future for Timor-Leste and to our partnership with the Government and people of Timor-Leste to achieve this historic purpose.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October, and to express my appreciation to you and the other members of the Security Council for this opportunity to address the Council on issue of the United Nations Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT). I would also like to express our appreciation to Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste and head of UNMIT, for her useful and timely briefing. Allow me also to extend my appreciation to Ambassador Sofia Borges, Permanent Representative

of Timor-Leste, for her presence here and for the statement she delivered earlier.

As an active member of the core group on Timor-Leste, the Philippines welcomes the recent positive developments emanating from that country. At present, the Philippines contingent in UNMIT and United Nations police has a total of 137 personnel serving in the country, 14 of them women. As the drawdown plan is carried out in the coming months, many of them will of course look forward to successfully finishing their tour of duty and leaving Timor-Leste and its people on the path to peace and stability.

As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/522), the general political and security situation in the country has improved substantially. There is now intensified focus on measures and initiatives needed to sustain stability, deepen democracy and the rule of law, reduce poverty and strengthen civic and judicial institutions. The Timorese Government, political parties, civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders have joined hands to address crucial development and governance issues.

On the economic front, the news is upbeat. Timor-Leste's economy is bullish and projected to grow by an impressive 10.4 per cent this year. That will no doubt strengthen the foundations of the country's economic base.

There has been a slight decrease in the crime rate, as compared to previous months. The Philippines is pleased to note that the overall crime rate does not pose a serious threat to the current law and order situation. The situation in that regard has allowed UNMIT to gradually reduce the number of its police officers, thereby allowing the national police to take a more active role and greater responsibility.

The Philippines welcomes the planned visit of the Security Council to Timor-Leste, which is being organized by Japan for November. The visit will no doubt provide Security Council members with first-hand information about the country. Their presence there will further reinforce the commitment of the United Nations to helping the country to achieve peace, stability and progress.

While we are encouraged by the good and encouraging news, the Philippines maintains guarded optimism over the overall situation. Beneath the current situation there still lie certain concerns that must be addressed with greater vigour and determination in the short term. Foremost among these is the ability of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) to take over the role of UNMIT and the United Nations police. Handing over primary policing responsibilities to the PNTL will require sustained and concentrated efforts to ensure that it will provide a strong foundation for long-term institution- and capacity-building. Strengthening civilian oversight and management capacities over State security forces is equally critical. In sum, there is still more work to do.

The latest positive developments have emboldened UNMIT to implement a downsizing plan throughout 2010, in close coordination with the Government of Timor-Leste. As the situation continues to improve and as we see the readiness of the Timorese Government and people to take responsibility for their own peace and security, what will remain for UNMIT to do is to sketch an exit strategy that is realistic, practical, transparent and cost-effective. As we clearly saw in 2006, the premature disengagement of UNMIT could produce catastrophic consequences for Timor-Leste. Even closer coordination among UNMIT, the Timorese Government and all stakeholders is needed as the UNMIT mandate expires.

At this point, I wish to assure you, Mr. President, and all of our partners in the United Nations, especially the core group on Timor-Leste, that the Philippines stands ready to do its part to contribute to the success of UNMIT and to the ongoing and future peacebuilding efforts in Timor-Leste.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): I thank Ambassador Borges and Special Representative Haq for their presentations, and the Secretary-General for his encouraging but balanced report (S/2010/522) on the situation in Timor-Leste.

I also wish to convey New Zealand's condolences to the Government and people of Japan and to the family of former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kawakami on his untimely passing.

On this occasion, I am accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Tim McIvor, New Zealand's Ambassador to Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste faces a critical period of transition from a situation of fragility and instability to one focused on long-term development and the challenges of the future. The choices and investments that are made over the next 18 months will determine whether the nation-building of recent years will be sustained and have an impact on Timor-Leste's future political, economic and international outlook. In short, the coming 18 months present a challenge to which we must collectively respond, and an opportunity that must not be squandered.

The Secretary-General's report evidences the considerable progress of the past six months across all areas of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The security situation has remained calm, enabling a drawdown in the International Stabilisation Force. There has been real progress towards the full transfer of executive policing authority to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). Double-digit growth has continued, enabling progress in addressing poverty, and there have been further advances in building the capacity and effectiveness of core State institutions. We now see an increasingly confident country determined to chart its own future course. That is nowhere more evident than in the drafting of the National Strategic Development Plan, which includes a programme of nation-wide consultations personally led by the Prime Minister.

All of that is cause for optimism, but over the next 18 months we must preserve those gains and deliver further progress in key areas. We must ensure that the coming election consolidates the stable democratic political culture that has emerged in recent years, and that the institutions established to support effective public management and guard against corruption have sufficient resources and political support to execute their duties effectively and impartially. Timor-Leste will increasingly take the lead in addressing those challenges, with support from the international community. We need to give careful thought as to how best we can support those efforts.

Planning for a post-UNMIT Timor-Leste must begin now, because UNMIT's mandate for 2011 must reflect key aspects of the transition. We are therefore pleased that discussions have begun with the Government for the joint management of that transition, including the establishment of a high-level steering group. We stress the importance of drawing in other international partners, in due course, to ensure the effective coordination of international support in this critical period.

Transition management will be particularly crucial in the security sector. Over the past year, considerable progress has been made in building the capacity of the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) and the PNTL, and in establishing the legislative, policy and operational frameworks for defence and security.

We can now with some confidence envisage a time when Timor-Leste will be able to provide for its own security without a United Nations police or international security forces presence. We do not know exactly when that will be, but we do know that UNMIT and the International Stabilisation Force will be there to provide support through to the 2012 elections. Whether they have a role beyond that must be decided by the Government in consultation with the international community. It is vital that serious planning begin now to ensure a smooth transition and a withdrawal that does not negatively affect the security or economic situation. In this regard, completion of the transfer of executive policing authority to the PNTL will be crucial. Impressive progress has been made over the past year, with district-by-district handovers moving much more smoothly than was expected, but challenges remain, particularly in Dili.

Significant issues remain to be resolved. In particular, we urge an early resolution to the status of uncertified officers who have been accused of serious crimes. New Zealand fully shares the Secretary-General's concerns in that regard. It is important that this be resolved, not only for transferring police authority, but also for maintaining the longer-term integrity, reputation and effectiveness of the PNTL.

The requirement to build the operational capabilities of the PNTL in key areas is also important. This needs enhanced investment by the PNTL in developing those capabilities, and careful planning to ensure they are sustainable. The United Nations can make an important contribution here, particularly in deciding how to dispose of its assets during the drawdown process. Its planning must be carefully coordinated with the PNTL and the donor community, and provision must be made for the long-term maintenance and use of transferred equipment.

One practical contribution the United Nations could consider would be to train mechanics to maintain

and repair motor vehicles. In fact, the United Nations should consider transferring the UNMIT transport and workshop facility in Dili to the PNTL.

With the transfer of executive policing authority, the role, size and composition of United Nations police must also change, as must its relationship with the PNTL. Deploying experts will be crucial, so we urge the early deployment of the 19 additional civilian advisers who were approved in the most recent budget. As this transition unfolds, it will be important that Mission planners retain flexibility to ensure that UNMIT adapts to the changing environment and that, once policing has been transferred, the PNTL is seen to be exercising the authority it has received with support and assistance from the Mission.

New Zealand is playing its part in supporting the development of the PNTL. For some years, our police have successfully worked with their PNTL counterparts to build an understanding of community policing. Integrating police into their communities and building trust between communities and police are essential to building an effective modern police force — so much so that the Timorese Government has highlighted assistance on community policing as a priority on a bilateral basis.

Over the past year, there has been significant progress with key security sector reforms. The Government has approved new defence and security laws; a draft national security policy is now with the Council of Ministers; and there are signs of clearer demarcation of the roles of the PNTL and F-FDTL.

With the Government having articulated its vision for the security sector, the focus of the Mission and other international partners should now shift to capacity-building, assistance and support. The United Nations is providing advisers in the defence and security administrations — assistance that will remain necessary for some time yet. But international personnel, in our view, should be working to make their presence unnecessary, rather than becoming entrenched in line positions.

Bilateral partners will also have a role to play in the next phase of international assistance to Timor-Leste, and we urge those partners to work closely with the Timorese Government in that regard. As assistance shifts from security to other priorities, New Zealand is committed to aligning its support with Timor-Leste's national development priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals.

New Zealand believes that the United Nations can be rightly proud of its contribution to Timor-Leste, but must now look to manage the transition in a manner that honours that contribution, and must plan for a post-UNMIT future where its support is focused on Timor-Leste's priorities and where the United Nations can best add value.

New Zealand again assures the Council of its ongoing commitment to Timor-Leste, its people and its leaders, as well as to Ameerah Haq and to UNMIT, as they face this exciting and challenging transition. They all have our support.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Pedro Serrano, head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Serrano: Let me thank you, Mr. President, for giving the floor to the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

I want to start by greeting the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Sofia Borges, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ameerah Haq, and by expressing gratitude for their insightful briefings on the situation in Timor-Leste — a situation that, as we can also read in the excellent report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/522) before us, has continued to improve steadily in many ways.

During the reporting period, we saw yet another milestone: the closure of the last transitional shelter for internally displaced persons. With the humanitarian phase brought to a close, the country is now able to fully focus on consolidating peace and justice and on eradicating poverty. It will find the European Union not on the sidelines, but by its side. Timor-Leste can count on our assistance in the future.

I will structure my remarks on current and future challenges according to the four priority areas of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the well-led Mission that is supporting Timor-Leste. These are review and reform of the

security sector, strengthening the rule of law, economic and social development, and promoting a culture of democratic governance and dialogue.

First and foremost, on security, the importance of a professional, impartial and accountable national police service cannot be stressed enough. Although there is still a premium on prudence, the handovers to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) have so far been encouraging, with crime rates roughly at the same levels as before. UNMIT capacity-building of the PNTL remains crucial if such progress is to take hold over the long term. Of course, there is more to security than policing. The important comprehensive security sector reform involves not just security and defence forces, but also border control, customs and the justice sector.

That brings me to the second priority: the rule of law. The increased budget allocation and the Justice Sector Strategic Plan show the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to this crucial sector. The performance of the justice sector has improved and accountability is on the rise. Nevertheless, impunity remains an issue. Causes for concern are ongoing human rights abuses by the security forces themselves and the high number of reported incidents of gender-based violence.

While clamping down on today's violations, we should never lose sight of what happened yesterday. Redressing past human rights abuses helps to re-establish and reinforce the rule of law and should therefore remain a priority. We welcome and encourage the ongoing efforts to create an institution that would take forward the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, as well as those of the Commission of Truth and Friendship. It is our hope that the Timor-Leste Parliament will soon resume and wrap up discussions on the relevant draft laws.

Third, on socio-economic development, Timor-Leste is recovering from the economic setbacks of the past, with poverty having dropped by an estimated 9 per cent in the past three years. The careful management of oil revenues and the new National Strategic Development Plan could together serve to jumpstart economic growth and poverty reduction. The Government is to be commended for conducting such wide-ranging consultations on the plan. We are looking forward to receiving the final version, so that we can align our assistance with it. These are the issues that we believe the plan should prioritize: fostering long-term rural development, reducing unemployment, especially among young people, and improving social services, especially health and education.

Fourthly, on governance, the Government of Timor-Leste has made great strides. Public finance management has been reformed, leaving the State more transparent and more accountable. A Civil Service Commission and an Anti-Corruption Commission were put in place. The Anti-Corruption Commission must now become truly operational. The establishment of an independent technical secretariat, an independent procurement commission and the Audit Court also constitute important future steps.

In closing, the general election scheduled for 2012 will be an important milestone for Timor-Leste's democracy. In our view, the presence of UNMIT in the country should be maintained at an appropriate level during the critical election year. In the meantime, we believe the preparation of an operational strategy to transform UNMIT from a peacekeeping into a peacebuilding mission deserves special attention, with the exact details to be worked out between, of course, the Timor-Leste Government and the United Nations. That is why we commend them for creating a joint committee to execute the mission's transformation with care. And that will entail taking into account the reality on the ground, as well as potentially negative effects on the local economy. We look forward to receiving regular updates on the committee's work.

Beyond 2012, the international community's commitment to Timor-Leste needs to be different, but no less strong. The European Union will continue to be guided by a proverb from Timor-Leste: "Solidariedade nos bons e maus momentos", or in other words, solidarity in the good and bad moments.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Ms. Dye (South Africa): I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to you, Sir, for providing my delegation with the opportunity to participate in this important debate on the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). As a member of the core group on Timor-Leste, South Africa remains very interested in developments in that country. We thank the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste for her statement and

join other speakers in honouring the memory of the Deputy Special Representative Kawakami. We convey South Africa's support to his successor, Mr. Mochida. We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the activities of UNMIT contained in document S/2010/522.

South Africa also welcomes the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Timor-Leste, Ms. Ameerah Haq, and thanks her for her briefing in the Council this morning. We are particularly pleased with the Special Representative's continued interaction with a broad range of stakeholders aimed at encouraging a sustained consultative and democratic decision-making process in Timor-Leste. It is our view that political dialogue among all the parties is the only way by which Timor-Leste can continue to strengthen its political institutions and processes aimed at making its statehood strong and sustainable.

Our delegation has noted all of the areas highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, but it also wishes to emphasize two priority areas, namely, good governance and the transition from UNMIT's mandate. South Africa is pleased to see that the overall situation in the reporting period was calm and that it provided an "enabling environment" for the Timorese Government to give renewed attention to the challenges facing that country. The Government of Timor-Leste should redouble its efforts to strengthen State institutions. We also encourage the Timorese Government to strengthen its relationship with the Timorese people, in order to respond effectively to the needs of its population.

South Africa believes that there is a direct link between development and security and that these are mutually reinforcing. In that regard we welcome the finalization of the Prime Minister's draft strategic development plan for 2011-2030, which identifies strategic areas of growth in the Timorese economy with the goal of transforming the economy from low income to upper middle income by 2030. Especially encouraging are the intensive direct consultations the Prime Minister undertook with the population of Timor-Leste to ensure support for the project and that the plan addresses the needs of the people of Timor-Leste. For peace, security and development to be sustainable, it is essential that local communities participate in the country's development and benefit directly. We encourage the Prime Minister to work towards the earliest possible implementation of this plan.

My delegation also welcomes the President's continued dialogue initiative on the theme "Road to peace and national unity" as an important step towards the strengthening of peace and reconciliation efforts throughout the country. This effort to promote dialogue and mutual respect is effective and should be sustained. As a result of that initiative, we have noted, for example, that the main opposition party, the Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente (Fretilin), respects the current political institutions and processes in spite of having denied the legitimacy of the current Government. Stable political societies allow for the existence of opposition groups and provide channels for those groups to freely express their concerns. This is an encouraging development, and we reiterate our support for the further development of political institutions in Timor-Leste. We call on all political parties to continue to actively demonstrate their commitment to the democratic processes in Timor-Leste, especially during the forthcoming election period. It is essential that the elections take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

With regard to UNMIT's mandate, South Africa welcomes the progress made in the resumption of primary policing responsibilities by the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL). It is encouraging that only a small number policing districts remain to be handed over. However, we have noted that almost all of them are located in the Dili area and that significant challenges remain with regard to certifying police officers in those districts. We are also concerned about the significant logistical challenges that face police stations. It is essential for UNMIT to hand over primary policing responsibilities, but it can only do so if the process is credible and sustainable.

In addition, policing authorities in any country must be viewed as legitimate in the eyes of their communities. It is therefore essential to further enhance effective disciplinary mechanisms, command and control structures and weapons control mechanisms. We reiterate our call for increased gender sensitivity in the execution of police duties, as a high percentage of crimes result from gender-based violence.

We welcome the promulgation by President Ramos-Horta of the national security legislative

package, which is specifically aimed at strengthening the security and justice sectors. We have noted the Secretary-General's call for this development to be operationalized through subsidiary legislation that will, among others, provide greater clarity on the delineation between the responsibilities of the military and civilian police.

With regard to UNMIT specifically, our delegation supports the view that the reconfiguration of UNMIT should be approached in a sensitive manner, with specific focus on the need to provide sufficient support to the PNTL in terms of training, capacity-building, advising, mentoring and institutional development. Moreover, every effort should be made to complete the drawdown and handover by the deadlines determined by Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1912 (2010) adopted in February. We encourage UNMIT to continue its consultations with the Government on the transition planning. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of an oversight mechanism between the Government and UNMIT.

In conclusion, South Africa welcomes the positive developments in Timor-Leste during the reporting period and stands ready to support the processes ahead as a member of the core group. We remain committed to the vision of a stable and strong Timor-Leste that can use its peace dividend for the prosperity of all of its people.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Thank you for giving me the floor, Sir, and I wish to congratulate you on your presidency of the Security Council. We believe that it is particularly important that the Security Council stay actively engaged with Timor-Leste. In this context we welcome the visit scheduled for November. I also wish to thank our dear colleague Ambassador Sofia Borges and Special Representative Ameerah Haq for their presentations, as well as the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and valuable report (S/2010/522).

Portugal naturally aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union. But, as a representative of a country that has a long, shared history with Timor-Leste and as an active member of the core group, I would like to underline some specific points.

Portugal praises the encouraging achievements in Timor-Leste during this reporting period and the continuing stable environment, as a credit to Timor-Leste's determination to long-term peace, stability and development. In assessing these achievements, it is important to acknowledge how far Timor-Leste has come in the few short years since its independence, but it is equally important not to lose sight of the significant challenges that lie ahead. Elections scheduled to take place in 2012 will test the capacity and resilience of Timor-Leste's national institutions and the progress made towards a stable democratic political environment and culture.

We are aware of the profound social and economic challenges still faced by Timor-Leste in terms of fighting poverty, building an economy that extends beyond oil, and ensuring that the young Timorese will have the skills, training and opportunities that they need to take charge of their future. Problems such as slow agricultural development, youth underemployment and lack of human resources are hampering the recovery and reconstruction process and having a fundamental repercussion on the social cohesion of Timor-Leste. These issues must be taken very seriously in the near future.

On the other hand, it is encouraging that continued advances were made in all four of the mandated areas of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), including dialogue initiatives on critical national issues, the achievements on the resumption of primary policing responsibilities by the national police, the promulgation of the national security legislative package, the adoption of the Justice Sector Strategic Plan and, last but not least, the presentation of the National Strategic Development Plan.

Further efforts are, however, required to overcome the political, institutional and socio-economic weaknesses that contributed to the events of 2006. The continued good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General will be crucial to facilitating the political dialogue with national political actors as Timor-Leste approaches the next general elections, which will be held by 2012.

Long-term security and stability will also depend on the capacity of the Timorese institutions to function in an effective, responsible and accountable way, with

due respect for the rule of law and benefiting from public confidence and support. To facilitate full and effective progress towards the full reconstitution of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL), a reinvigorated partnership between the PNTL and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) is required. A clear vision of the relationship between the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste and the National Police, as well as of their respective tasks, is also crucial. In this context, we reiterate that additional steps should be taken to facilitate the closest possible coordination of the support of the international community and bilateral donors.

However, no true progress will be achievable if the sustainable socio-economic development of the country is not made a priority. We support the Government of Timor-Leste in its continuing efforts to increase input into infrastructure development, education and vocational training, and we call on the international community to provide more assistance to the Government and Timorese people in those relevant fields.

We are aware that a number of fundamental issues will require sustained, long-term attention well beyond the date of 2012. For this purpose, Portugal welcomes the preparation of a strategy to guide UNMIT's transition beyond 2012. The consolidation of those goals will require the sustained engagement and support of the international community, in full respect for the Timorese people's own choices regarding their country.

Portugal remains fully engaged in supporting Timor-Leste and remains a major bilateral donor in a wide spectrum of areas, including governance and public administration, justice, education and security sector reform, and by contributing over 200 police and military liaison officers to UNMIT and fully supporting all areas under the responsibility of the Mission.

The people of Timor-Leste have repeatedly shown their resolve to build a peaceful, democratic and stable society. To that end, we will maintain our engagement and solidarity with the Timorese, and we encourage and support Ameerah Haq and the entire team of the United Nations Integrated Mission in carrying out their invaluable work.

The President: I now give the floor to Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste.

Ms. Haq: First of all, I want to thank and convey my sincere appreciation to all the members of the Council for all their expressions of support for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), for acknowledging the work done by UNMIT, and for their strong words in support of the continued progress of the people of Timor-Leste towards peace and stability. I specifically would like to thank members of the Council who expressed their agreement concerning the jointly owned planning and implementation mechanism, and I fully acknowledge the strong emphasis that was made by some members of the Council that it must be established jointly, with a strong emphasis on the national ownership of this process. We feel that an effective transition strategy will lay the foundations necessary to ensure the success of post-peacekeeping efforts as Timor-Leste moves into the peacebuilding arena.

I would also like to take note of all the observations that were made with respect to the reconfiguration of UNMIT police, the expressions of caution taken against hasty handovers, which we fully appreciate, and the need for a sufficient presence in all the districts and units to emphasize monitoring, training and mentoring and the continued need for capacity-building. In this context, many representatives particularly mentioned the 2012 elections as the test of the stability and effectiveness of the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL).

While everyone, I think, commented very favourably on the resumption of primary policing responsibilities, we also take note of some the concerns expressed with respect to the preparation of the PNTL in laying the groundwork for longer-term development. I can assure the Council that we will continue to work with the authorities in Timor-Leste in a concerted manner on the remaining units and districts.

There was also a reference to the delineation of roles between the military and the police. This kind of sector-wide reform is a complex process. It takes up a lot of time; it does not really have an end-point, but I think that the commitment to the current and ensuing legislation from the national security package must continue. We will obviously address the continuing needs of this operationalization of the laws and the issues of delineation contained therein.

Many speakers raised concerns about impunity and, as we have indicated, we certainly share this

concern. Primarily, as many have said, perceptions of impunity can undermine public confidence in the rule of law. I should point out that this can happen because of institutional or individual capacity challenges — for example, the difficulties that citizens have in accessing justice because of linguistic difficulties, the need for more trained court actors and the lack of infrastructure. Again, we must address this comprehensively.

Many members of the Council have spoken about socio-economic development, emphasizing the need for employment and taking into account the social instability that can be caused by large numbers of unemployed young people.

I also note with gratitude the continued strong indications of future bilateral support to Timor-Leste. That is crucial as we enter the transitional phase and we will continue to consult closely, obviously, and coordinate closely with the bilateral partners.

Finally, much emphasis has been placed on the continued culture of dialogue and reconciliation, and I can assure members of the Council that that part of the Mission's mandate will remain very much at the forefront.

Let me thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the Council for your continued support and guidance. I think that this keen interest will be evident on the ground in the Council's upcoming visit. We welcome that visit, and we would like to thank the Government of Japan for its role in organizing it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Japan for its role as Chair of the core group. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Portugal and South Africa, two very active members of the core group, on their election to the Security Council. We certainly know that Timor-Leste will benefit from that important membership.

Finally, let me thank you very much, Mr. President, for your leadership and for the tremendous support that you have brought to bear on the work that UNMIT continues to do in Timor-Leste. We continue to appreciate and seek the wise counsel and guidance of this body.

The President: I thank Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6406

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6406th meeting

Wednesday, 20 October 2010, 11.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Du Xiaocong
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Kodama
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/529)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-59402 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/529)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) and Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) took seats at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Antoine Gambi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mahmoud to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2010/529, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. I also wish to draw members' attention to a letter dated 7 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, contained in document S/2010/470.

In addition, I wish to draw members' attention to photocopies of a letter dated 12 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic and a letter dated 15 October from the Permanent Representative of Chad, which will be issued as documents S/2010/530 and S/2010/536, respectively.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Mahmoud: I thank the members of the Council for this renewed opportunity to brief them on the situation in Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic. As you mentioned, Sir, the Council has before it the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/529) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).

During the period covered by the report, the security situation in eastern Chad remained calm. The exceptionally intense rainy season reduced all road movements in MINURCAT's area of operations. It thus noticeably curtailed opportunities for acts of banditry, which, however, remain the main security threat to the population and to aid organizations in eastern Chad.

The Chadian-Sudanese Joint Border Monitoring Force can also be credited with this relative calm. With the planned increase of 1,000 personnel, the Force will reach a strength of 4,000 and offers, in my view, concrete hopes for improved effectiveness of the three-tier security system that the Chadian Government outlined in the paper it submitted to the Council in September. The Council may recall that the first tier of this system pertains to the protection of the Chad-Sudan border; the second covers the main villages beyond the border and the third covers refugee camps, internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites and surrounding villages. It is this last level that has been entrusted to the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS).

Notwithstanding the improved security, the humanitarian situation in Chad remains of concern. In order to assist and protect 262,000 refugees from the Sudan and 68,000 from the Central African Republic, as well as 168,000 internally displaced persons, 48,000 returnees and an estimated 150,000 host community members, there are eight United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operational in Chad, as well as 70 non-governmental organizations, helping the Government to address the situation.

Some IDP returns have been reported, mainly in the Ouaddaï and Dar Sila regions. The Government is fully aware that the absence of basic services in areas of return must be overcome to encourage further returns. A national strategy for the safe and voluntary return of IDPs is under preparation, with the help of the United Nations country team.

The Government of Chad has pursued its efforts to meet its international obligations in the area of the protection of civilians, as outlined and detailed in the Secretary-General's report. In the area of human rights, the Ministry of Human Rights and Promotion of Liberties, with support from MINURCAT, is establishing mechanisms for the implementation of the out come of the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty bodies' recommendations. The Government is also finalizing a human rights national action plan, which takes into account the recommendations emerging from the Universal Periodic Review. In addition, the Government is leading the European Union-funded Programme d'appui à la justice au Tchad, which supports the construction and rehabilitation of judicial infrastructure, capacity-building activities and improved access to justice.

As is also outlined in the Secretary-General's report, during this reporting period MINURCAT continued the consolidation and gradual handover to the Government of Chad of all administrative, logistical and operational support to the DIS. By the end of this month, all administrative tasks will be transferred to the DIS. By the end of the year, the ongoing recruitment and training of the additional 200 new DIS recruits will be completed, bringing DIS strength to 1,000.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the Government of Chad updated the DIS sustainability plan it had submitted to the Security Council in September. The updated plan outlines the financial and other needs to enhance the Government's capacity to support the DIS after MINURCAT departs. The Special Representative of the President of Chad for MINURCAT is currently in New York and will present the plan to potential partners and engage in a conversation with them concerning it.

In the meantime, Chad has initiated discussions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme on a successor arrangement to the DIS trust fund currently managed by MINURCAT, as well as for the provision of technical support.

On 11 October, after the report was issued, the Government of Chad organized the second humanitarian forum, with assistance from MINURCAT and the United Nations country team. The forum deepened the discussion on the concept and practice of the protection of civilians and the roles and responsibilities of the main stakeholders. Participants acknowledged that the physical, legal and social dimensions of protection should all be equally taken into consideration in the development of a national strategy for the protection of civilians. Participants also recognized the central contribution of the DIS. Five other such forums will be organized before the end of MINURCAT's mandate.

On 15 October, MINURCAT's military component suspended all operational activities and the Mission started its final withdrawal from Chad, as mandated by resolution 1923 (2010). Every effort is being made to complete this withdrawal by 31 December. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Chad for helping to ensure that the withdrawal takes place in an orderly, secure and dignified manner and with as few impediments as possible.

To assist the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to enhance their capacity for the protection of civilians, MINURCAT is planning to leave to the Governments camp sites in accordance with standing United Nations rules and regulations. These camps will be minimally operational, including facilities for water and electricity.

The Government and the United Nations country team are doing their best to take over as many possible of MINURCAT's tasks relating to the protection of civilians and early recovery in order to ensure their

continuity. It should be recognized, however, that they cannot take on additional tasks within available resources. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of MINURCAT, it is essential that the international community continue to provide and step up its support to the Government and the United Nations country team.

In an effort to assist the Chadian staff of MINURCAT to find new employment within the country after the Mission's departure and to mitigate the negative impact on the country's job market of that departure, the Mission organized a job fair from 4 to 8 October. A good number of United Nations agencies, private companies, diplomat representations and others interviewed nearly 550 of our staff.

(*spoke in French*)

As described in the Secretary-General's report, the security situation in the north-eastern Central African Republic remains volatile and worrisome. Given MINURCAT's imminent withdrawal and the limited capacity of the Government of the Central African Republic to ensure security in that subregion, the alleged or confirmed attacks by elements associated with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are of concern. Several additional attacks, allegedly also perpetrated by elements associated with the LRA, have taken place in the MINURCAT area of operations since the Secretary-General's report was issued.

The most recent attack took place on 10 October. Between 40 and 50 men attacked Birao, not far from MINURCAT bases. They pillaged the village and kidnapped 19 individuals. Among the kidnapped, four children were immediately released, nine escaped not long after have been seized, and six more escaped during the 11 October clash between a local self-defence group and the attackers. It is believed that four adults currently remain captive.

In order to avoid a potential security vacuum following MINURCAT's withdrawal, we must do our utmost to help the Government of the Central African Republic to deploy additional forces to Birao. For its part, MINURCAT plans in mid-November to hand over its camps in Birao and the airport to the national authorities.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the countries contributing troops and police to MINURCAT and to commend the work of the men and women of the Mission who, despite its drawdown, continue to do their best to implement the mandate conferred upon them by the Security Council.

The President: I thank Mr. Mahmoud for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Antoine Gambi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): On 10 August, the Security Council met (see S/PV.6371) to consider the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/409) on the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). That report announced the withdrawal of the Mission on 31 December 2010. We meet here today to consider the Secretary-General's penultimate report (S/2010/529), which should focus our attention on the issue of MINURCAT's disengagement.

I should like first to convey to you, Sir, the congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I should also like to commend Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for MINURCAT, who has given us an exhaustive briefing on the situation on the ground. Finally, I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the report before us, which will allow Council members to undertake deliberations aimed at attaining concrete results.

MINURCAT's mandate will come to an end on 31 December. The Central African defence and security forces will ensure the changeover from international forces for the continued operations to prevent a security vacuum in the north-east of the territory.

The case is similar with regard to concerns raised by the attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, which initially ravaged the south-east of the country but are now in the north-east, in Birao. Today, four prefectures of the Central African Republic are victims of LRA violence. That terrorist group sows the seeds of desolation among the population by pillaging, raping, massacring and burning down villages as they move through an area, resulting in thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees.

On 13 and 14 October 2010, on the initiative of the African Union, a regional ministerial meeting on

the activities of the LRA took place in Bangui to seek ways and means to eradicate that phenomenon in the countries that are affected — the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic — as well as South Sudan. In that connection, the Central African Government will deploy a battalion of 500 personnel to Birao. That deployment will be gradual, continuing through to 31 December 2010.

Unfortunately, the Central African armed forces desperately lack materiel and equipment to complete their mission, which is to ensure the security of people and goods, refugees, displaced persons and humanitarian workers in the region. Thus the Central African Republic requests the support of friendly nations and the international community in order to bolster the operational capacity of the Central African armed forces as well as of its security and defence forces so that they can fully play their role. To that end, a needs assessment was sent to the Council. Furthermore, the Central African Republic is currently taking steps with neighbouring States to reactivate existing accords for joint patrols along common border areas.

To us, the withdrawal of MINURCAT seems to be a new opportunity to support the efforts for security sector reform in the Central African Republic. If the stationing of peacekeeping forces has had a limited effectiveness over time, it is important and logical that the gains be consolidated within the framework of arrangements for strengthening the capacities of local forces. That is why I repeat here the Central African Republic's position that was set out at the Council's last meeting on this matter (see S/PV.6371). We believe that the return of logistical means and installations used by MINURCAT to the Central African forces and their operational supervisory staff will allow us to accelerate the process. The President of the Republic and head of State, Army General François Bozizé, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General along these lines at the beginning of 2010.

The security situation in the north-east and the south-east of the Central African Republic calls to the international community, which has always been at my country's side. Help us to take up those responsibilities in order to ensure our security.

That is why that we place a great deal of hope on the pertinent decisions that will come from the Council with regard to the report now before it.

The President: I thank Foreign Minister Gambi for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to be brief. Let me start, Mr. President, by congratulating you upon your accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. Allow me also to greet the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, our brother and great friend, General Antoine Gambi.

Regarding the report on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2010/529), presented for our consideration by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General — whom we welcome here today — we shall refrain from making any observations or any comments. However, allow me to reiterate our commitment and our resolve to efficiently fulfil our mission, namely, to protect civilians, particularly refugees and displaced persons, through to their voluntary return to their places of origin.

In that regard, and pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1923 (2010), dated 25 May 2010, we have just submitted to the Council an updated plan to make permanent the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS). The implementation of that plan will enable the DIS to ensure continued security in the refugee camps, displaced persons sites and surrounding areas, as well as to provide security escorts and uphold security in the area as a whole, in coordination with the national Gendarmerie and the National and Nomad Guard of Chad.

We have always stressed the need for the international community to ensure that the special trust fund should remain after MINURCAT's withdrawal to meet the needs of the DIS, which is — we have repeated this on numerous occasions — a pilot force, which, as we like to say, is the pride of the United Nations and Chad.

Therefore, allow me to submit for the Council's consideration a few figures. For 2011, our plan for making the DIS permanent has a budget covering operations and logistics in the amount of 10,039,215,680 CFA francs, or $21,561,472. The Special Representative of the President of the Republic to MINURCAT will meet informally with the Council. He will be able to explain the plan better than I, and, through the Council, will launch an appeal to the

international community to continue its efforts alongside Chad to help refugees and displaced persons in the east of our country.

We count on the Council's diligence to ensure that it not lose sight of the noble mission of protecting civilians, something that it is has constantly reminded us of. Indeed, we count on the Council and on each of its members, who bear the responsibility, in keeping with the demands they make of us, to ensure that after the complete withdrawal of MINURCAT the international community continues to assist us in fulfilling our humanitarian mission.

Finally, I cannot conclude without reiterating our full cooperation with the United Nations in the discharge of its noble mission for peace in our country and in the subregion.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6407

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6407th meeting

Thursday, 21 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-59578 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ibrahim (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Hasan Ibrahim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Lamamra to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and I invite him to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council on this pressing challenge.

The situation in Somalia remains fragile, but there are glimmers of hope. Notwithstanding recent internal divisions, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) remains committed to peace and reconciliation. The President has appointed a new Prime Minister, and I urge the Parliament to endorse him, so as to allow a new Government to come into place without delay.

The Government is also developing its security sector institutions. It is carrying out an offensive against the insurgents, and has taken over some main cities previously occupied by them. Reports of residents taking down the Al Shabaab flags that had been flying in the town of Belet Hawo, and hoisting the Somali national flag instead, are a sign of the Somali people's yearning for peace and security.

These actions — some concrete, others more symbolic, including the resumption of broadcasting by Radio Mogadishu and the rehabilitation of some key buildings — demonstrate the Government's resolve to meet those aspirations, in partnership with the international community.

At the same time, the obstacles are well known. Two million people, including 1.4 million who have been displaced internally since 2007, need emergency aid. Continuing insecurity and conflict in parts of the country are attracting foreign extremist elements. This poses a threat not only to Somalia, but to the region, the continent and beyond. We have all seen what can happen when terrorists and others take advantage of a country's fragility to establish a haven.

Support to the TFG, its reconciliation efforts and its fight against extremism will go a long way, but the international community must act now if it is to make a difference. The United Nations will continue to work towards achieving the political objectives of the Djibouti peace process in the following four key areas.

First, it must support the outreach and reconciliation efforts of the TFG with those outside the peace process. To sustain these efforts, my Special Representative, Augustine Mahiga, has been making regular visits to Mogadishu and States in the region. Under his leadership, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) is encouraging dialogue

with entities that renounce violence and are still out of the Djibouti political process.

Secondly, it must support the TFG in completing the priority tasks outlined in the Transitional Federal Charter, in particular consultations on the constitutions. As recommended at the International Contact Group meeting in Madrid on 27 September, the TFG has agreed to prepare a road map with a prioritized comprehensive strategy, political objectives and timelines for the remainder of the transition. UNPOS will facilitate this process.

Thirdly, it must advance the implementation of agreements between the TFG and other regional authorities. In order to be effective in ensuring that this process happens, we are beefing up our political presence in Puntland and Somaliland.

Fourthly, it must develop functioning State institutions. In addition to holding more meetings of the High-Level Committee and the Joint Security Committee inside Somalia, UNPOS and the country team will focus on strengthening the capacities of the various ministries.

In each of these areas, the United Nations will continue its light footprint approach in order to be closer to the Somali people and authorities. We will also ensure that United Nations efforts are well coordinated, in line with my policy of integrating United Nations operations. As I indicated in my most recent report to the Security Council (S/2010/447), in the coming months I intend to submit for the Council's consideration proposals for an integrated United Nations presence.

I commend the African Union (AU) and its Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their efforts in assisting the TFG in its security and military efforts. The United Nations Support Office for AMISOM has been providing critical logistics support to AMISOM, making it a better-equipped military force. As we will hear shortly from Commissioner Lamamra, AMISOM's military strategy aims at assisting the TFG in establishing professional security sector institutions, implementing its agreements with other groups and authorities, creating humanitarian space and delivering basic services to the people. This strategy fully supports and complements the overall political strategy for Somalia.

However, if AMISOM is to be enabled to be an ever more effective partner, further international help will be needed. In my most recent report to the Council, I expressed concern about the substantial resource gaps that continue to have an adverse impact on the Mission. Extensive consultations have taken place — notably last month's informal meeting of members of the Security Council, major donors and other partners, jointly convened by the Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and Field Support — aimed at resolving the lack of predictable and sufficient funding. The issue of funding for AMISOM also featured prominently in statements delivered at the mini-summit I convened during the general debate of the General Assembly, and again during the recent Council mission to Africa.

Following these consultations, the report of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union is now before the Council. The report calls for significant additional support for AMISOM to be funded through the assessed contributions of States Member of the United Nations.

I encourage the Council to take the bold and courageous decisions necessary to enhance the capacity of AMISOM to deliver more effectively on its mandate. The Security Council may wish to consider phasing the additional support in line with the phases outlined in Chairperson Ping's report. This approach would allow for periodic review of the impact of the additional United Nations support. My Special Representative is working closely with the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to ensure coherence between their military strategy and the international community's political objectives, as outlined in the Djibouti Agreement.

In return, I urge the Somali authorities to consolidate their efforts and unite against the threat of extremism. The TFG must also start to deliver improved services to the Somali people, pay salaries to the security forces, and build up its security sector institutions. The support of the international community is critical in this regard.

In a country that has been in conflict for two decades, peace requires sustained efforts and a long-term strategy. I pay tribute to all those contributing to that goal: the African Union Mission in Somalia, countries that have contributed troops, Somalia's neighbours, and Member States that have shown great

commitment in supporting Somalia and the peace process.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lamamra.

Mr. Lamamra: On behalf of the African Union (AU) Commission and its Chairperson, Mr. Jean Ping, as well as on behalf of the members of my delegation — including Ambassador Boubacar Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission and head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and Major General Nathan Mugisha, AMISOM Force Commander — I would like to most warmly commend you, Sir, for organizing this meeting. Coming as it does on the heels of the mini-summit convened here in New York on 23 September by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, this meeting bears further testimony to the determination of the United Nations to sustain the current momentum in the search for a durable solution to the crisis in Somalia.

We commend the Secretary-General for the attention and efforts he continues to devote to the situation in Somalia, and for his rich and forward-looking statement to the Council this morning. That statement indeed translated his renewed and unflinching commitment to bringing a durable end to the two decades of suffering endured by the Somali people. Indeed, such a strong determination, which is required from the international community as a whole, hardly needs to be emphasized. The protracted suffering inflicted on the Somali people and the increasing threat posed by the situation to regional stability and to international peace and security cannot be allowed to continue any longer.

Today's meeting of the Security Council is taking place a week after the 245th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, which convened at the ministerial level in Addis Ababa on 15 October. The meeting provided an opportunity to review in-depth the situation in Somalia and to take far-reaching decisions, whose timely implementation, we are convinced, will help turn around the situation on the ground and assist the Somali people in opening a new and more peaceful chapter in the history of their war-torn country.

The current developments in Somalia are well known. I would like, however, to provide a brief overview of the background against which the Peace and Security Council meeting took place and to highlight political, security and humanitarian aspects.

First, over the past few months, the political situation has been challenged by the inability of the Transitional Federal Institutions to effectively implement their obligations under the Transitional Federal Charter and the Djibouti peace process. That was mainly due to the intermittent and recurrent wrangling within the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions and the resultant lack of cohesion, which led to the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, on 21 September. The African Union notes that President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has now appointed a new Prime Minister. We look forward to the early formation of a representative Cabinet and the speedy completion of the parliamentary confirmation process.

Secondly, the security situation in Mogadishu and in the rest of Somalia — the south-central area — remains unacceptable, as demonstrated by the persistent violence in the country and other heinous acts, such as the mortar attacks, assassinations and suicide bombings that continue to be perpetrated against the Somali people, the Transitional Federal Institutions and AMISOM by the insurgents and terrorist groups of the Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam with the active support of foreign elements. The African Union is very concerned that the insecurity in Somalia is spilling over into the region, as attested by the despicable Kampala bombings of 11 July 2010.

Thirdly, the humanitarian situation is of the utmost concern. It is characterized by persistent attacks against humanitarian workers and agencies by Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam, by limited access, as well as by inadequate funding.

In reviewing the situation in Somalia, the African Union Peace and Security Council was guided by the urgency of effective and coordinated action by the Somalis and the international community. In particular, the Peace and Security Council was convinced that the situation required three layers of action.

The first layer concerns the Somalis themselves. Indeed, the Somalis, and their leaders in particular, have the primary responsibility for the restoration of peace, security and stability in their country. That is why the Peace and Security Council strongly urged the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions and all other stakeholders to show selfless leadership,

resolve and unity of purpose. Without such dispositions, no amount of external assistance will make it possible to effectively turn around the situation in Somalia.

More specifically, bearing in mind that 20 August 2011 will mark the end of the transitional period, the Peace and Security Council requested the Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia, first, to ensure the confirmation of the new Prime Minister by the Transitional Federal Parliament and the formation of a new Government; secondly, to develop a road map with regard to the management of the remaining transition period, with clear political, security and reconstruction priorities, in line with the Djibouti process; thirdly, to expeditiously complete the outstanding transitional tasks, including in particular the constitutional process; fourthly, to continue to reach out to all peace-embracing Somalis, in a spirit of inclusiveness, bearing in mind that the Djibouti peace process remains the sole basis for peace and reconciliation in Somalia; and, fifthly, to urgently endorse the draft national security and stabilization plan and the security-sector assessment report.

The second layer relates to the African Union. The Somalis will not succeed in their efforts without the full support of the continent and that of the international community as a whole. While the situation in Somalia calls for the mobilization of resources and assets that are beyond the means of the African Union, our continental organization cannot abdicate its responsibilities to Somalia and fail its people. Building on the achievements made so far, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) will continue to do their utmost to support the Somalis as they strive to bring to a definite end the conflict and violence that have plagued their country for two decades. In particular, the African Union's action over the coming months will centre on the following efforts.

First, we will focus on supporting the political process, including the management of the remaining transitional period and efforts to reach out to all peace-embracing Somalis.

Secondly, we will concentrate on strengthening AMISOM in order to bring its military component to 20,000 troops and its police component to 1,680. That increase in strength will be accompanied by the enhancement of the Mission's equipment. In addition, AMISOM's civilian component will be enhanced substantially.

Thirdly, we will focus on mobilizing the international community so that it can fully play its role. The appointment of former Ghanaian President Jerry John Rawlings as African Union High Representative for Somalia will no doubt inject new momentum in that respect.

The third layer pertains to the international community, and in particular the United Nations. Clearly, while duly acknowledging the support rendered so far, we at the African Union strongly believe that more efforts are required for the international community to rise to the challenge posed by the current situation in Somalia. More specifically, the Peace and Security Council ministerial meeting has urged the United Nations Security Council to take the following actions.

The Council has been urged, first, to endorse the newly authorized strength of AMISOM.

Secondly, the Council has been urged to authorize an enhanced support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations assessed contributions on the basis of the newly authorized strength and catering for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, including minor and major equipment, and the payment of troop allowances at United Nations rates, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission. In addition, such support should be provided to the Mission, both within and outside Somalia, as required.

Thirdly, in response to the request by the African Union and IGAD, the Council has been urged to impose a naval blockade and a no-flight zone over Somalia to prevent the entry of foreign fighters into the country and the operation of flights carrying shipments of weapons and ammunition to armed groups inside Somalia — the very groups responsible for attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, AMISOM and the Somali population. In that respect, the Security Council might like to consider requesting the Governments and organizations involved in the naval operations undertaken off the coast of Somalia to provide, with the Council's authorization, more direct and tangible operational support to AMISOM.

Fourthly, the Council has been urged to ensure the effective implementation of sanctions against all

those impeding the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

Fifthly, the Council has been urged to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with a view to effectively addressing the underlying causes and other equally serious threats that affect the livelihoods and well-being of the Somali people, in particular illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia.

Lastly, the Council has been urged to reaffirm the commitment to deploy, in due course, a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia through the re-hatting of AMISOM, and to establish a timeline for such a deployment.

Somalia is today at a crossroads. While the situation on the ground remains very difficult and the transitional federal institutions of Somalia are confronted with a myriad of challenges, not least those relating to their internal cohesion and effectiveness, we should not lose sight of the opportunities that exist to make peace happen in Somalia. After two decades of conflicts and chaos, the Somalis are yearning for peace. In addition, there is today greater awareness than ever before of the serious threat that the current situation in Somalia poses to international peace and security, as illustrated by the phenomenon of piracy and, even more dramatically, the Kampala terrorist bombings of July 2010.

The international community can decide to pursue its current policy of limited engagement and half-hearted measures in the false hope that the situation can be contained, and continue to make the existence of peace a precondition for the deployment of a United Nations operation and a greater contribution to the stabilization of the situation in Somalia.

But the international community can also decide that it should step up its efforts, bearing in mind its duties and responsibilities to Somalia and its people and the need to give concrete meaning to the much-heralded notion of the responsibility to protect, as well as the urgent need to confront the threat that the prevailing situation poses to international peace and security. We at the African Union are convinced that this is the right course of action and that the time for action is now, in the expectation that 2010, the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, will indeed bring the blessings of a normal life to the people of Somalia.

We therefore call on the Security Council to stand alongside the African Union in rising to the challenge and responding decisively to the desperate call for assistance from the Somali people.

The President: I now give the floor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Hasan Ibrahim.

Mr. Ibrahim (Somalia): I take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting on Somalia and enabling us to participate in the discussion. I also want to thank you for the excellent way you have been facilitating the work of the Security Council. At the same time, I want to thank the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, and the bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental organizations that have assisted Somalia, in one way or another, during the very difficult past two decades. We are especially grateful to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the African Union and the brotherly countries of Uganda and Burundi for their heroic stand with us and their sacrifices.

My address to the Council today will be in three parts. The first will attempt to put the position of Somalia and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in the proper perspective. The second will be on our full support to the position of the African Union, and the third will be on a few suggestions I have for the Security Council on the way forward in Somalia.

In view of the prevailing negative media coverage of Somalia and in the interest of enhancing understanding of the plight of the Somali people and their TFG, I would like to spend a few minutes, without going into unnecessary detail, on the background to our discussion. It goes without saying that, when things are not going as well as we would like, it is tempting to engage in the blame game. I guess that is part of human nature.

In our opinion, what happened to Somalia in 1990 and 1991 was a catastrophe without precedent in modern times. In Somali, we call it the *burbur*, which literally means "disintegration" or "breakdown". After 20 years of military rule, the regime came to an abrupt end without any transfer of power. The ruler — or dictator — simply walked away when his adversaries started to close in on him. He moved to a remote border area, which was his ancestral home. The rest is history. With the breakdown of law and order, what

happened afterwards was terrible but could have been even worse. For the sake of argument, let us imagine, for a moment that one's own country, God forbid, found itself in a similar situation. I am sure that the consequences would be too ghastly to contemplate.

I submit that the history of Somalia during the past two decades has not been just doom and gloom. The focus of the reporting on Somalia has been on the capital, Mogadishu, which admittedly did not do well for most of that time. But Somalia is bigger than Mogadishu. Some regions have experienced a relatively peaceful existence. The few reporters who ventured to these areas found booming towns where local businessmen, together with their relatives in the diaspora, managed to set up clinics, electricity, schools, telephones and running water despite the lack of a central Government. It was not surprising to find that the private sector moved into many areas where the Government was traditionally involved. Even in Mogadishu, private radio stations, television stations, new hotels and internet cafes could be found.

I believe that this testifies to the resilience of the Somali people. Furthermore, when the banking system collapsed with the central Government, a parallel internal banking system sprung up and is still functioning. A Somali in the diaspora can send, say, $50 to a relative in the remotest areas of Somalia, even where there is fighting at the time, within 48 hours. This is done by money-wiring services operated by Somalis for Somalis. To the surprise of many, the Somali shilling is still resilient because the informal banking sector still has faith in it.

I would like to touch briefly on the nature of the adversaries of the TFG. Every effort was made during and after the Djibouti peace process to advance reconciliation, but these extremists, with foreign ideology and support, had no interest in dialogue or the peaceful resolution of conflicts. They used force to take over the town of Baidoa, which was the seat of the TFG at the time. As soon as the TFG was installed in Mogadishu, they decided to topple it by coup. Since then, they have used relentless violence to reach their objective of destroying life, property, the TFG and AMISOM.

It can be argued that the very existence of the TFG, under the circumstances, is a clear plus. Recently, the former Prime Minister saw fit to resign in order to allow the Transitional Federal Government to go forward. This can be interpreted as an exercise in democracy and governance. Now we have a new Prime Minister, who is expected to be confirmed by Parliament momentarily and to form a new Government shortly.

I would like to reiterate that the people of Somalia and the Transitional Federal Government fully realize that the primary responsibility for stabilizing the country lies with them. Others can only help. We value our sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity. The Transitional Federal Government will do whatever it takes to stabilize the country and implement the road map provided by the Transitional Federated Charter during the remaining period of office. In that connection, we hope that the United Nations Secretary-General will be able to revisit the time needed — six months, as noted in his report — to prepare his vision of United Nations cooperation with regional groups such as the African Union.

I now would like to refer to the two important documents guiding our discussion of the situation in Somalia. The African Union communiqué and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2010/447) have both given an account of the situation in Somalia. Indeed, we remain in a dire situation, given the following aspects: first, the overall security situation and what that means for the people of Somalia, the neighbouring countries and the rest of the world; secondly, the glaring tragic humanitarian situation; thirdly, the growth and menace of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean; fourthly, the phenomenon of virulent terrorism and extremism fuelled by Al-Qaida, foreign fighters, extremists, spoilers, saboteurs and profiteers; and fifthly, the obvious threats to international peace and security.

I now would like to go on record as completely endorsing the African Union communiqué issued on 15 October, 2010 by the African Union Peace and Security Council and made available to all Security Council members. In particular, the Transitional Federal Government welcomes the African Union calling on the Security Council to take the decisions now required of it in line with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace by first, endorsing the African Union proposal on a new force strength of 20,000, with the requisite air and maritime capabilities, and an enhanced police component of 1,680, comprising 560 police experts on

mission, eight formed police units of 140 each and an enhanced civilian component and secondly, authorizing an enhanced support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations assessed contributions based on the newly-authorized force strength and guaranteed reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment costs, including minor and major equipment and payment of troop allowances at United Nations rates, in order to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission. In addition, the Peace and Security Council requests that such support be made available to the Mission, both within and outside Somalia, as required.

Let me now address the role of the Security Council in relation to the urgent situation in Somalia. As we all know, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and it is incumbent upon the Security Council to cooperate with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Such cooperation can improve collective security. We believe that the African Union is calling for such cooperation to be effective.

Furthermore, we hope that the Security Council will respond to the various Governments, peoples, institutions and organizations that do not comprehend why the Security Council has not already taken appropriate measures commensurate with the urgent situation in Somalia, by: first, taking decisions aligned with those endorsed by the African Union on numerous occasions including the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsement of 15 October 2010; secondly, demonstrating that the Council fully realizes the urgency of the situation and that it is indeed a threat to international peace and security; thirdly, reaffirming the Council's commitment and political will prioritize peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding; fourthly, committing itself to uniform standards and consistency in relation to the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers, and fifthly, convincing the international community that the Council is prepared to take decisive and urgent action whenever that is warranted.

Finally, I would like to summarize the solution, as I see it, to the Somali crisis as follows: first, the Transitional Federal Government will obviously try to organize itself and upgrade its performance in earnest despite the daunting obstacles and roadblocks; secondly, the Somali security sector, including its army and police, must be strengthened significantly to enable the establishment of law and order throughout Somalia; thirdly, AMISOM must be strengthened by resolving the urgent problems of reimbursement to the troop-contributing countries, soldier allowance parity and funding and by enabling the immediate implementation of phase I of AMISOM's mandate. The Security Council must also endorse the African Union proposal on the new force strength and revised concept of cooperation.

I believe that, if we embark on the course I have outlined above, we will achieve something worthwhile and the world will be a better place for all.

I would like to conclude by informing all Council members and the Secretary-General that the new Prime Minister was recently appointed by the President and now awaits the Parliament's confirmation. We look forward to the early formation of his cabinet. The Government has promised to fulfil the obligations of the Transitional Federal Government to, first, maintain cohesion and unity of purpose, and secondly, address the security issue in Somalia and mobilize the Somali people and its forces to reverse the security situation in Mogadishu by defeating the extremists with the confirmed support of AMISOM and the international community. We all know that there are no better people to defend their country than the country's own people. We request, therefore, that the Council provide us with the means and support us in forming our police and army to be in a situation to effectively confront the extremism, both terrorism and piracy, in our own country.

The President: I thank Foreign Minister Ibrahim for his statement. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to continue our discussion on the subject in a private meeting.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6408

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 October 2010

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6408th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 21 October 2010, at 11.15 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 6408th meeting, held in private on 21 October 2010, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation in Somalia'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 6407th meeting, the President recognized the presence of His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President extended invitations to the representatives of Burundi and Ethiopia, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 6407th meeting, the President recognized the presence of Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President extended an invitation to His Excellency Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The members of the Council, His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim, the representative of Burundi, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Mr. Pedro Serrano, Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support, and Major General Nathan Mugisha, Force Commander for AMISOM, had an exchange of views."

10-59743 (E) 211010

Please recycle

United Nations S/PV.6409

Provisional

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

6409th meeting

Friday, 22 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President	Mr. Kalegaya	(Uganda)
Members	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalic
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Kodama
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Ajumogobia
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2010/514)

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10-59826 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

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The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Ethiopia, Finland, Kenya, Portugal, South Africa and the Sudan, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the aforementioned representatives took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 19 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations, in which he requests that the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, be invited to participate in the consideration of the item in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Lamamra to take a seat at the Council table.

I should like to inform the Council that I have also received a letter from His Excellency Mr. Pedro Serrano, acting head of the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Serrano to take the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency, Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. On behalf of the Council, I also wish to recognize the presence of His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Hasan Ibrahim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, at this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2010/514, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

There is no doubt that peacekeeping is increasingly becoming a shared responsibility in which the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and the wider international community have critical roles to play. Uganda therefore welcomes the progress being made towards strengthening the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU).

The report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations highlights areas of progress. This includes increased consultation and collaboration on matters of peace and security, support for the AU's 10-year capacity-building programme, and assistance in building the capacity of the AU and subregional organizations in Africa to plan, deploy and sustain peacekeeping operations.

The African Union, recognizing the detrimental impact of previous conflicts in terms of retarding socio-economic development and causing untold suffering to populations, has shown its resolve and commitment to preventing, managing and resolving conflicts on the continent. It is working on the implementation of a comprehensive peace and security

architecture and has underscored the need for its member States to adhere to constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law.

As the Secretary-General points out in his report, the African Union is taking critical measures to strengthen its capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations. The AU and subregional organizations — including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community — continue to develop their capacities and have invested the resources necessary, within their capability, to respond to conflict situations in various countries. They are making an important contribution through their knowledge of situations on the ground and their ability to respond quickly.

It is important to ensure that peacekeeping, which is an indispensable tool available to the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, is done effectively. The Security Council, under resolution 1809 (2008), recognized the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding to regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate. However, the efforts of the African Union to effectively deploy peacekeeping operations continue to be hampered by the lack of sustainable, predictable and flexible financing.

The African Union Mission in Somalia is a case in point, the provision of the United Nations logistical support package notwithstanding. While we appreciate the support rendered by the bilateral partners, the fact remains that such voluntary contributions are not only unpredictable, but also unsustainable. When the AU deploys peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, it is doing so on behalf of the United Nations and the international community.

In our view, extensive deliberations and debates have been held on the need for sustainable and predictable financing of African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. It is now critical that decisive action be taken on practical ways of actualizing that support, including through assessed contributions, as recommended almost two years by the AU-United Nations panel chaired by former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi (see S/2008/813). The benefits that would accrue from supporting effective peacekeeping, coupled with conflict prevention and peacebuilding, are immense in terms of promoting peace, security and development.

I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and invite him to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank you, Sir, for convening this important debate. I also welcome the participation of the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia.

This is an important opportunity to follow up on last year's discussions on how to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), and in particular to enhance the AU's peacekeeping capacity. The work of regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter is indispensable. The development of the African peace and security architecture is critical to an effective long-term approach to conflict prevention and resolution. It requires the sustained support of the international community.

The African Union and Africa's subregional organizations have made great efforts to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts on the continent. Often, its personnel have paid the highest price. This year alone, the AU has lost 15 peacekeepers in Somalia. In addition, 44 peacekeepers from African troop contributors have given their lives this year to peacekeeping around the globe.

Last year's debate (see S/PV.6254) and the report of the AU-United Nations panel chaired by former Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy (S/2008/813) detailed the challenges the African Union faces in undertaking peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. The report before the Council today (S/2010/514) provides an update on the work of the United Nations to support the African Union in overcoming these obstacles.

In the past few years, the United Nations and the African Union have entered into a broad range of partnerships, from early warning and conflict prevention to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. These partnerships have deepened cooperation between this Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, and between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

In this regard, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the President of the African Union, President Mutharika of Malawi, and the leaders of African States for their commitment to peace and security and to working closely with the United Nations. I thank, too, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr. Jean Ping, and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, for contributing so much to developing close cooperation between our organizations. As we all know, these relationships have yet to reach their full potential.

In July, the United Nations established its Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa. Assistant Secretary-General Muburi-Muita, who is with us today, took up his post there last month. We hope that the Office will facilitate a consistent, coherent and strategic approach to the United Nations work with the African Union. In September, I inaugurated the first meeting of the United Nations-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security. The Task Force is meant to engage our organizations at the highest levels in exploring ways to enhance our responsiveness so that we can prevent conflicts rather than simply respond to crises.

We are also conducting a comprehensive review of the first triennium of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union. I will be reporting to the current session of the General Assembly with recommendations for further strengthening the programme's management, cooperation, coordination and monitoring.

Building capacity is only part of the picture. The African Union continues to face difficulties in securing the necessary resources to support its peacekeeping undertakings. Darfur and Somalia illustrate that clearly. We need to find a solution that will provide predictable, sustainable and flexible resources to the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping operations authorized by the Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter.

AU peacekeeping operations should receive the same support as all United Nations peacekeepers, including reimbursement. By the same token, AU peacekeepers should uphold the same professional standards as United Nations personnel. That is why, for example, the Secretariat has been working with the AU to define guidelines and strengthen capacity on protecting civilians and minimizing civilian casualties.

Let me stress again the great importance I attach to the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. In the months ahead, I will submit a report that will help to define a strategic vision for United Nations-AU cooperation on peace and security. Our partnership has achieved much to date and has great potential for the future. Let us all work together towards effective mechanisms for a long-term approach to conflict prevention and resolution and a reliable system for peacekeeping under the Charter. Let us find our way towards a model that works for Africa and that can, in turn, bring lessons and applications for our cooperation with other regional organizations.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

Mr. Lamamra: I am pleased to address the Council, for the second consecutive day, to provide an African Union (AU) perspective on issues of common concern.

That the Security Council agreed to hold back-to-back meetings on Somalia and on United Nations support to the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping operations and, more generally, on the partnership between the world organization and the AU, bears testimony to the commitment of this body to the promotion of lasting peace and security in Africa.

On behalf of African Union Commission Chairperson Jean Ping and the AU as a whole, I again salute Uganda, which is presiding over the Council this month. I also salute your personal presence, Mr. President, at this important meeting. I commend Uganda for its leadership and for the many sacrifices that it has made in pursuit of our objective of a conflict-free continent, especially through its participation in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is undoubtedly one of the most challenging operations ever undertaken by our continental organization.

Yesterday, we debated the situation in Somalia and the urgent actions needed from the international community, and in particular from the Security Council, to meet the challenges arising from current developments in that country and to extend to the Somali people the support they desperately need as

they strive to put behind them the two-decades-long conflict that has torn their country apart.

In fairness to the United Nations and the larger international community, we are not starting this journey from scratch, for the United Nations is at the forefront of those providing the financial, logistical and technical support required for AMISOM to fully discharge its mandate. It is only fitting for me to reiterate our appreciation to the United Nations for its invaluable support package to AMISOM, which ushered in a new era in the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in general, particularly the African Union.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude once again to South Africa, which initiated the process that led to the Prodi panel report (see S/2008/813) and has since continued to work tirelessly towards the effective follow-up of the recommendations contained therein. We at the African Union are pleased that South Africa is rejoining the Council, for its presence in this body and its long-standing commitment to peace will inject added momentum to efforts aimed at making the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations more relevant to the current challenges and environment.

Yesterday's discussions and today's debate are intertwined. In many respects, our joint undertaking on Somalia offers a template of how the AU-United Nations strategic partnership should evolve, if our efforts at addressing the challenges of peace and security in Africa are to succeed.

Less than two years ago, the Prodi panel, jointly established by the African Union and the United Nations in a spirit of renewed partnership, submitted a forward-looking report on how best to enhance the relationship between the African Union and the United Nations, based on a judicious combination of their respective comparative advantages. To buttress the proposed approach, the Prodi panel pointed out that, while African peacekeeping missions had demonstrated aptitude for rapid deployment, which provided the initial stability needed for a long-term solution, the lack of capacity and other resources hampered their ability to effectively implement their respective mandates over extended periods of time.

The panel suggested a number of practical steps towards further coordination and collaboration between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission. The report identified ways of developing institutional capacity commensurate with the demands placed on the African Union.

On the enhancement of the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of the financing of United Nations-mandated peace operations undertaken by the African Union, the report recommended the establishment of new financial mechanisms based on United Nations assessed contributions.

Beyond those specific steps, the Prodi panel stressed the need for a shared strategic vision to enable the United Nations and the AU to exercise their respective advantages, but also to reduce the likelihood of duplication of effort and of organizations working at cross-purposes.

Since the submission of the report, significant progress has been made towards the implementation of the recommendations that were formulated. I would like, at this juncture, to most sincerely thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his report (S/2010/514), which provides an exhaustive picture of what has been achieved and the challenges ahead.

Allow me, in particular, to highlight the ever-closer working relationship between the AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat. On many issues of mutual concern, we endeavour, at various levels, to consult with one another and, to the extent possible, to harmonize our positions. In that respect, the launching, here in New York on 25 September, of the joint AU-United Nations task force on peace and security truly marked a milestone. The presence of both Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Chairperson Jean Ping of the African Union Commission at the launching of the task force, which convened its first substantive session a few days later, was a testimony to the commitment of the leadership of the two organizations to deepening the AU-United Nations partnership.

It is also worth mentioning the upgrading and streamlining of the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa through the establishment, in July 2010, of the United Nations Office to the AU, as well as through the capacity-building support provided to the AU in a number of areas and the increased coordination on the

ground between representatives of our two organizations.

The convening in Cairo last August, at the initiative of the AU Commission and within the framework of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, of a retreat bringing together senior officials and envoys or representatives of the AU and the United Nations, as well as from other partner organizations and countries, gave a new impetus to the ongoing efforts to ensure more effective coordination and harmonization at both strategic and operational levels. In the Cairo Call for Peace, adopted at the end of the meeting, the AU was encouraged to organize another retreat next year and to institutionalize this forum thereafter, while at the same time working with the United Nations to ensure an effective follow-up to the steps agreed upon, including the establishment of regional forums of mediators in support of the quest for peace, security and stability in Africa.

This partnership also involves the policymaking organs of the AU and the United Nations. That the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council have now institutionalized their yearly consultative meeting is a further indication of the shared awareness that achieving lasting peace and security in Africa requires that we pull our resources together and harmonize our positions, building on a creative reading and interpretation of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

There has been progress even on the more challenging issue of funding AU-led peace support operations, though more slowly than Africa expects. The support package provided to AMIS before its transformation into the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the support given now to AMISOM are indicative of a more innovative approach to peacekeeping and the challenges associated with it. I could not agree more with the observation in the Secretary-General's report that the logistic support package financed through United Nations-assessed contributions has been a key factor in the operations of AMISOM.

With UNAMID, we have gone a step further, joining our efforts in an unprecedented hybrid operation, funded and managed by the United Nations. In so doing, our two organizations have demonstrated a capacity to respond to complex political realities with the required flexibility and pragmatism.

The African Union welcomes the joint AU-United Nations lessons learned exercise, planned for mid-November 2010 in Nairobi, to study those experiences, as requested by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 26 October 2009 (S/PRST/2009/26). It is critical that the lessons drawn be applied and that they inform future decisions by our two organizations.

As we meet today, we ought, therefore, to be proud of what has been achieved, for it provides a strong platform for further progress in our joint endeavour. At the same time, we should remain mindful of the many challenges that lie ahead, which require a greater and more focused mobilization from all stakeholders.

While the AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat have enhanced their collaboration, as indicated earlier, there is room for significant improvement. That requires an action-oriented approach geared towards achieving tangible results. It also requires that at all levels we fully embrace the spirit of partnership we have committed ourselves to, and that we remain relentless in our determination to make collaboration and coordination a permanent feature of our relationship so as to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of scarce resources. We must maximize our impact and be of better help to those in need of assistance. I trust that the Joint Task Force will provide us with the required tools to precisely see to it that the commitments made at the highest levels are implemented and that the conclusions of the coordination meetings we regularly convene are followed through.

It is also important to make sustained efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. There are many steps that could immediately be taken to that end, ranging from regular consultations between their respective chairs in order to harmonize their agendas and ensure a closer coordination and better synchronization in terms of decision-making, to joint field missions and more substantive discussions at the yearly meetings between the two organs, with the necessary time and attention being allotted to the latter.

I cannot conclude my remarks without addressing the issue of funding the AU-led peace support operations. As members are all aware, that issue is of

particular importance for the African Union, having been discussed on several occasions by our highest decision-making body, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Over the past few years, the African Union has demonstrated renewed determination and willingness to deploy peace support operations to help stabilize fragile environments, where more often than not there is no clear-cut distinction between a continuing conflict and a situation where there exists a peace to be kept. That is done to provide the much-needed backing to forces of peace as they battle to keep the upper hand over those bent on pursuing hostilities for narrow and short-term gains, and to create conditions for sustainable peace and long-term recovery, including through the deployment of United Nations operations.

Significantly, AU deployments on the ground are labelled peace support operations, and not peacekeeping operations. In Burundi and the Sudan yesterday and in Somalia today, the AU, we believe, has demonstrated the validity of that approach.

At the same time, we are faced with serious resource, logistical and capacity constraints, which have hampered the ability of the operations deployed to fully discharge their mandated tasks and achieve their objectives. Yet we have no doubt that the risks inherent in such undertakings were worth taking, not only to seize the opportunities that presented themselves for the advancement of peace — and we feel vindicated by the experience in Burundi — but also to fulfil our obligation and responsibility to protect vulnerable populations caught in deadly conflicts. In so doing, the AU, while fulfilling its own mandate and promoting the goals and principles enshrined in its Constitutive Act and other related instruments, is also acting on behalf of the Security Council of the United Nations.

Against that background, the importance of finding a lasting solution for the funding of AU-led peace support operations cannot be overemphasized. Time and again, experience has demonstrated that support using United Nations-assessed contributions is the most viable response to the challenge at hand, especially when the operations concerned, as is the case for AMISOM, are undertaken with the consent of the Security Council.

Therefore, I would like to reiterate the AU call to the Security Council and the United Nations in general to approach that issue with the urgency and flexibility required, building on the support packages extended to AMIS and AMISOM and other relevant experiences, in line with the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Clearly, this responsibility should be exercised in full, including when it comes to its financial implications.

As the Secretary-General rightly pointed out in paragraph 54 of his report, "The complex challenges in the world today require a revitalized and evolving interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations", based on the recognition that support by the United Nations to the regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the United Nations Charter. Making peace happen in Africa — a continent that, in spite of the significant advances made over the past years, still accounts for the highest proportion of conflicts worldwide — require no less from the world body and its relevant decision-making organ on peace and security matters.

We need an enhanced and innovative partnership to meet today's challenges and endow ourselves with the required capacity to confront the uncertainties of tomorrow. We need to demonstrate leadership and vision in order to take the bold steps that the changing international landscape demands. We need to guard ourselves against the deceptive comfort that the status quo offers, for it erodes our capacity to explore innovative solutions and better anticipate the future. I have no doubt that the Security Council will successfully navigate the challenges at hand.

For its part, the AU is determined to fully play its role, consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. We will pursue the efforts initiated to enhance our capacity and accelerate the full operationalization of the African peace and security architecture. The ongoing Amani training exercise to test African Standby Force procedures and the study assessment of the African peace and security architecture are clear illustrations of our determination to press ahead in this area and to improve financial management and transparency and raise more resources from within the continent, including through innovative partnerships with the private sector and civil society, as part of the follow-up to the Year of Peace and Security

We will endeavour to make conflict prevention, in particular structural prevention, a centrepiece of our action, making effective use of the relevant components of the African peace and security architecture and building on our solid normative framework on issues relating to governance, human rights, democracy, disarmament and arms control, and border management, to list but a few. We will step up our efforts to resolve existing conflicts, while consolidating peace where it has been achieved in order to prevent a relapse into violence.

I would like once again to express our most sincere gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his tireless efforts and unflinching commitment to the cause of peace and security in Africa and in the world as a whole. His excellent report deserves credit, for it not only eloquently articulates the challenges facing us and the steps we need to take, but also gives due recognition to the progress achieved by the AU in the implementation of its reform agenda in the area of financial and administration management, as well as to the contribution the AU is making to the achievement of our common goal of a continent at peace with itself and with the rest of the world.

The President: I thank Mr. Lamamra for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members, I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to read a condensed version when speaking in the chamber.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Ajumogobia (Nigeria): I wish to commend His Excellency Mr. Eriya Kategaya, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs of Uganda, and the Ugandan delegation for convening this important debate to assess the support to African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations.

Let me also express my appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his leadership and commitment to peace and security in Africa, in particular, and for his presence here for this debate and his insightful remarks. I am also grateful for the illuminating AU perspective so ably presented by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

This debate benefits from the contents of resolution 1809 (2008), the landmark Prodi report of 2008 (S/2008/813), and the Secretary-General's reports S/2009/470 of 18 September 2009 and S/2010/514 of 14 October 2010. While the validity of the findings of these reports is undeniable, what remains lacking is the will to act resolutely to address the complex challenges we face in Africa. I hope that today's debate will lay a strong foundation for the set of actions required to substantially enhance the peacekeeping capacity of the African Union and contribute to the observance of the Year of Peace and Security declared by the African Union.

Conflicts in Africa bear the hallmarks of the emerging threats to international peace and security. Their root causes are, however, multifaceted, and we must therefore recognize the need for a comprehensive approach to resolving them. Above all, our response must be situated within the rubric of the quest for collective security, responsibility for which does not rest on any one country or region, but on the international community acting in concert.

Going forward, we must have a shared strategic vision of our goals, recalling that peacekeeping in Africa is an integral part of the maintenance of international peace and security, for which the Security Council has primary responsibility. When the African Union undertakes a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations, it fulfils a dual responsibility to the people of Africa and humankind at large, represented by the ideals of the United Nations.

Nigeria's experience in Sierra Leone and Liberia has taught us myriad of lessons on the challenges of regional peacekeeping. I would subsume them into three core areas of financing, equipping and mission support arrangements.

Let me illustrate the quandary the African Union all too often finds itself. I need not remind Council members that Africa constitutes 70 per cent of the matters on our agenda. Invariably, these matters are also on the agenda of the African Union, which is frequently called upon to respond. Indeed, over time, the AU and its regional economic communities have demonstrated an increasing ability to initiate and lead

subregional peacekeeping operations, as Nigeria has done in West Africa.

Yet, at best, the AU is but a part of our collective security system facing multiple demands to deploy, mediate or support post-conflict processes across a vast continent. These demands placed on the AU far outweigh its resources and capacities to effectively respond. The consequences of this mismatch include mission failure, increased instability, retarded economic development and a reluctance among potential partners to contribute to what is perceived to be a failing system. If we are to do things differently, we must use our political authority to ensure that, where regional capacities exist, appropriate support follows.

We appreciate the growing understanding of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including their key organs and institutions. Without a truly strategic partnership and relationship, vision and clear guidance, our enormous investments in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding will continue to be short term and ad hoc.

As the Secretary-General has observed, the extent to which the administrative bodies of the United Nations and AU can fully realize a meaningful strategic partnership depends on the clarity of guidance and direction of legislative mandates. The burgeoning partnership between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission crystallized in the establishment on 25 September 2010 of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security — an excellent point of departure.

Furthermore, under Nigeria's presidency last July, the Council reached agreement with the AU Peace and Security Council on the format and modalities of the annual consultative meetings of the two bodies. We welcome the view of the Secretary-General that these meetings will require preparatory and follow-up mechanisms, using the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Financing AU peacekeeping operations remains a daunting challenge. But, as the Prodi panel report reminded us, "financing options are not difficult to identify" (see S/2008/813). The problem persists because we, the stakeholders, have failed to adopt the far-reaching and creative alternatives required. Given that the current financial frameworks for partnership in peacekeeping are not conducive to building a sustainable long-term strategy, it is imperative that the Council endorse a financing option that guarantees the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding for AU peacekeeping operations mandated by the United Nations.

The AU remains an organization in transition, whose institutions are still building their capacities. In that respect, we appreciate the knowledge-sharing and information exchange envisaged in the Secretary-General's report, in particular in relation to preventive diplomacy efforts, such as mediation and early warning. In Nigeria's view, a hybrid mission like the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) would benefit from a collaborative field mission to enhance synergy in monitoring, the assessment of results and response strategies. Through such collaboration, the AU might also benefit from best practices within the United Nations system in reforming its processes and institutions.

Too frequently, AU member States are able to muster sufficient troop numbers to address crisis situations, only to then have a lack of equipment and logistical support let them down. In this regard, we should stress that the capacity development of peacekeeping personnel, though essential, is not a substitute for adequate equipment, logistics and training. We are thus encouraged by the range of initiatives under consideration, particularly the prospect of giving the African Union access to the United Nations Logistics Base capacities and the United Nations strategic deployment stocks and of making a surge capacity team of experts available to the African Union at the initiation of a peace support operation.

If we act on the recommendations put forward, we would undoubtedly add substance to AU's mission capabilities. We encourage the AU to continue with its institutional reform process, as well as development of a long-term capacity-building road map. We believe the United Nations Secretariat can play a key role in pulling this framework together in order to improve the technical support to the African Union. There may also be scope to support initiatives like the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre in Jaji, Kaduna, to enhance its capacity to train and prepare AU troops for the planned African Standby Force. Nigeria encourages the Secretary-General to carefully analyse the scope for and implications of these options.

We strongly urge the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to find sustainable funding to bring the support package for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the level of that of United Nations peacekeeping operations. During the mini-summit on Somalia last month, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan reminded us it is only when all parties commit to peace and take practical steps to consolidate it that change will endure. The security situation in Somalia, he added, will improve dramatically if there is a strong, coordinated international presence.

By acting together, we would demonstrate the shared responsibility of the international community for the maintenance of peace and security. But in the final analysis, the African Union can only play an effective role in response to crises if there is sufficient political will and commitment of both its own member States and the international community as a whole.

Mr. Li Baodong (China): The Chinese delegation welcomes you, Sir, to the Security Council to preside over today's debate. We also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his report entitled United Nations support of African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council (S/2010/514) and for his briefing.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, for his briefing.

At present, peace and security in Africa continues develop in a positive direction. However, peace and security continue to be fragile in a number of areas, where flashpoint issues have long eluded resolution. Non-traditional threats to security, such as terrorism, piracy and transnational organized crime, are also on the rise.

The maintenance of peace and security in Africa remains one of the most real and pressing challenges facing the international community. This is also the major reason for which Africa has designated 2010 as the year for peace and security.

As the most important regional organization of Africa, the African Union has been playing an increasingly important role in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa and the settlement of conflicts on the continent. China expresses its great appreciation.

However, at the same time, the peacekeeping operations of the African Union have become increasingly constrained in terms of funding and capacity-building. They urgently need the support of the international community, including the United Nations.

China supports the creation and development of strategic cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. We are pleased to see that the United Nations Office to the African Union was created on 1 July. China welcomes the continuation of regular communication between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and expects such cooperation to continue, so as to use the respective advantages of the two organizations to achieve practical results in the important fields of mediation, conflict prevention and security sector reform. China hopes that the recently launched United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security will be able to carry out its mandate and work hard to promote the strategic partnership between the two organizations.

China maintains that the United Nations should help the African Union obtain reliable financial support for its peacekeeping operations. China is pleased to see that the package of logistical support provided by the United Nations has markedly improved the living and working conditions of its peacekeepers, but is concerned about the financial constraints that African Union missions continue to face.

We believe that, while the United Nations should continue to provide active support, all countries concerned should honour their commitments of support. We believe that all parties concerned should give positive consideration to the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report with regard to various sources of financing and the criteria for financial support, with a view to putting in place a predictable and sustainable financing mechanism for the African Union's peacekeeping operations.

We support institutional capacity-building for the African Union's peacekeeping operations. The United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with the African Union through training and the sharing of knowledge and lessons learned. It should also speed up the implementation of the United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme.

We have also taken note of the fact that the United Nations will view its support to and cooperation with the African Union in the field of peacekeeping operations from a new perspective, as pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report. We look forward to receiving a report from the Secretary-General in this regard

China has always given importance and support to having the African Union play a greater role in the field of peace and security in Africa, and has provided support to all AU peacekeeping operations in different forms, through both bilateral and multilateral channels.

The second political consultation between the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs and his AU counterparts was conducted on 24 September in New York as a General Assembly side event. During the consultations, both sides reiterated the importance of carrying out AU peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union and their readiness to strengthen training to build up the African Union capacity in this important field.

In the future, China will continue to provide every support within its capacity to the African Union and African countries and will continue its efforts to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union.

China supports the draft presidential statement prepared by Uganda on the theme of today's debate.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Allow me to welcome you, Sir, in assuming the delicate role in the Council chair today. I would like to thank you for organizing this debate to discuss the important issue of support for African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by United Nations mandate. We are grateful to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the African Union Commissioner, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, for their comprehensive briefings. It is also an honour to welcome His Excellency Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia and thank him for his contribution. We also welcome the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/514) before us, noting the progress that has been achieved thus far.

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches great importance to enhanced cooperation between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations. Strengthening cooperation and strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is of key importance for conflict prevention, crisis management and achieving lasting peace and security on the African continent.

Further enhancement of cooperation between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council is vital for reaching those objectives. It should result in concrete action on the modalities and means for the development of strategic partnerships when addressing issues of mutual interest and concern.

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia are illustrative examples of cooperation based on flexibility and making best use of the comparative advantages of the African Union and United Nations in the area of effective peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

The United Nations Secretariat and African Union Commission need to ensure the complementarities of their efforts, as well as realistic benchmarks and timelines. Strengthening the efforts of African Union and its institutional capacity to effectively plan, deploy and manage peacekeeping operations is a key prerequisite for their success. It is also of high importance that the African Union ensure leadership and ownership of the process. Bosnia and Herzegovina furthermore considers that closer cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and African Union Commission will, in addition, minimize duplication of efforts. The establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union is a practical step in that direction.

We commend the progress made in the past years in the area of implementing the 10-year capacity-building programme. We also welcome the launching of the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security on 25 September 2010. Such initiatives and increasing United Nations engagement in Africa will provide adequate ways forward to make the African peace and security architecture fully operational as soon as possible.

As stated in the Secretary-General's report, focusing on developing the capacities of the peace and security architecture, particularly in the areas of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, is crucial. In that regard, the operationalization of the African Standby Force and the continental early warning system should continue to be priority areas of joint engagement. We welcome the idea of utilizing

more efficiently the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa as a forum for discussing substantive issues related to peace and security in Africa.

Despite many positive developments, the challenge of predictable, flexible and timely financing remains an issue of concern. Therefore, it is vital that all parties concerned continue their engagements in activities aimed at reaching feasible solutions to that important element of comprehensive and effective implementation of peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates in Africa.

We are encouraged by the fact that African Union Commission has implemented significant reforms targeting the areas of staffing, budgeting, financial management and accountability, which have resulted in improved and effective financial management, accountability and reporting.

The decision of the African Union and its member States to broaden the resource base and extend resource mobilization by 12 per cent of its regular budget to financing the African Union's Peace Fund reflects the political commitment to take responsibility for peacekeeping operations. Bosnia and Herzegovina warmly welcomes this decision.

Finally, the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, including the African Union, becomes more and more important in addressing the challenges of the contemporary world. Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its full support for the efforts of the African Union as the regional factor in resolving conflicts and upholding peace and security in the region.

In conclusion, allow me to express our support for the draft presidential statement prepared by the delegation of Uganda.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Today's meeting again demonstrates the special attention that the Security Council devotes to issues of settling crisis situations on the African continent. It is significant in that connection that the Security Council is not the only player in this field. We note with satisfaction that the African Union (AU) is increasingly present in resolving the continent's problems.

What is worthy of support is the resolve of the African Union and its member States to bear the responsibility for preventing conflicts and carrying out peacekeeping activities in Africa. A telling example here is the actions of African peacekeepers in Somalia and Darfur, conducted in cooperation with and with the support of the United Nations.

The African Union's peacekeeping role demonstrates the need for rational utilization of the capacities of regional organizations by the Security Council, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The existence of robust regional organizations that are capable of bearing a greater share of responsibility for the situation in their regions enables the United Nations to focus on global issues to a greater extent, in the interests of the entire world community.

The African Union's peacekeeping capacities require further strengthening, including through support from the international community. There is fruitful cooperation between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council and between the secretariats of both organizations.

We believe that the creation of the United Nations Office to the African Union will optimize assistance for strengthening AU peacekeeping capacities from our universal Organization. Furthering and enhancing the effectiveness of efforts to strengthen regional security and resolving cross-border problems on the African continent will be promoted by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, which will be established soon. We hope that the United Nations experience in Western Africa will be brought to bear here.

Regarding the provision of logistical and financial support by the United Nations for the African Union's peacekeeping efforts, we are wedded to a rational approach. What is required here is a thorough analysis of the conditions for the deployment and of the needs of specific peacekeeping operations, and multilateral consultations between the African Union and the United Nations on all aspects of United Nations support. What requires separate discussion is the provision of further United Nations support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, keeping in mind the security and humanitarian situation in that country. Yesterday's Security Council meeting (see *S/PV.6407*) was useful in this respect.

In parallel to peacekeeping, we need to devote our attention to bolstering the African Union's

mediation and preventive diplomacy capacity. The priority here remains the creation by the African Union of a multi-tiered, collective security architecture for the prevention of and timely response to emerging crisis situations. The most important element of the architecture should be the international peacekeeping force known as the African standby force, whose creation the international community is assisting.

The Russian Federation is participating in the elaboration and implementation of international assistance programmes for Africa, including for the strengthening of the African Union's peacekeeping capacities. Russia's specialized educational facilities are conducting training programmes for African Union peacekeeping personnel. We intend to continue to develop our cooperation with African States aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the region.

The Russian Federation supports the draft presidential statement prepared by the Ugandan delegation.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to you, Sir, and by thanking you and the delegation of Uganda for convening today's open debate. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive analytical report on this issue (S/2010/514). I also wish to thank Ambassador Lamamra for his briefings and contributions. I also extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Ajumogobia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, and thank him for his contributions to this important debate.

The Security Council, at its summit meeting of 23 September (see S/PV.6389), reiterated its commitment to strengthening its strategic partnerships with and support to regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Today's debate presents a unique opportunity to follow through on our commitments and to translate them into concrete action in the African context, and thus contribute to the strategic vision of partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU).

We are also pleased with the growing recognition of the fact that the African Union has various comparative advantages that need to be utilized in such a way as to contribute to international peace and security. The United Nations has recently assumed the important responsibility of supporting the AU's efforts to enhance its own capacity in this area. In this regard, we welcome the recent progress made in strengthening the strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including enhanced collaboration between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

United Nations support to the African peace and security architecture, including the African standby force and the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, are essential elements of our common strategy with respect to the African continent. The establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in July was also a serious step, and we look forward to the full operationalization of the Office. We are also pleased with the inauguration of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security between the United Nations and the AU, which we believe represent a strong platform for further efforts.

We also welcome the steps taken by the African Union to enhance its capabilities in the field of preventive diplomacy. We are particularly pleased with the joint efforts of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission in the areas of conflict prevention and peace mediation in a number of African countries. The inclusion of assistance in developing the African Union's mediation strategy in the 10-year capacity-building programme is also commendable insofar as peace mediation is a cost-effective and efficient method of crisis management and conflict resolution.

However, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General, important challenges remain and more needs to be done. In his report, the Secretary-General points to a number of such challenges, the notable of which pertains to financing. We note that the Secretary-General's conclusions on this issue are strikingly similar to those contained in the 2008 report of the Prodi panel (S/2008/813). Indeed, both reports point to the need for sustainable, flexible and predictable financing mechanisms for the AU peace support operations mandated by the United Nations. Voluntary contributions frequently constitute an unstable and unpredictable funding mechanism. That is why resolution 1809 (2008) and the presidential statement of 26 October 2009 (S/PRST/2009/26) acknowledged the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional

organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate.

As the Secretary-General also underscores in his report, the current financial framework for partnerships in peacekeeping operations is not conducive to building a long-term strategy. We fully endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report on these issues. In particular, we concur with the Secretary-General that a more predictable, reliable and sustainable funding mechanism must be found, especially to ensure that the African Union will be able to fulfil the goals set out in the African peace and security architecture.

In the light of the experiences gained in the context of the African Union Mission in Somalia, where the logistical support package was financed through United Nations assessed contributions, we believe that the Security Council must be ready to consider the use of assessed contributions to support similar United Nations authorized operations on a case-by-case basis in the future. This could help the Council to overcome the biggest challenge standing in the way of African peacekeeping operations, as well as United Nations-African Union strategic cooperation.

Investing in the African Union's peacekeeping capacity means at the same time investing in the security, stability, prosperity and thus the future of that great continent. It is a long-term investment that will surely pay off as the African continent fully develops its own capabilities. Turkey is ready and willing to do its fair share in this regard. With these considerations, we support the draft presidential statement prepared by Uganda and look forward to the next report of the Secretary-General to define the United Nations strategic vision for United Nations-African Union cooperation on peace and security.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): I would like to first thank you, the Right Honourable Mr. Eriya Kategaya, Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda, for organizing today's debate and to express appreciation to the leadership of the Government of Uganda in supporting African Union (AU) peacekeeping. I would also like to express appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia for his participation in and contribution to this morning's debate. I also thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, for their valuable briefings.

Japan highly praises the conflict-prevention and peacekeeping efforts made in recent years by the African Union and Africa's subregional organizations, as well as the tangible outcomes obtained as a result of those efforts under African ownership. The international community must extend further cooperation to support this positive trend. If the African Union fulfils its unique role and makes the best possible use of its competencies and advantages in the fields of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, it will be to the benefit of the entire international community.

Japan believes that we must continue to seek an appropriate path to expand the role of the AU and to strengthen the partnership between the AU and the United Nations. In this regard, Japan welcomes the enhanced relationship between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, and proposes regular action-oriented follow-up meetings through the platform provided by the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

With respect to capacity-building, it is essential to continue to extend our support to African troop-contributing countries. Japan has committed itself to assisting in the capacity-building of the African peace and security architecture through the African Union's Peace Fund. Japan also contributes to efforts in national and regional capacity-building, including the support programme for peacekeeping operations training centres in Africa. Japan stands ready and committed to continuing its support in this field. We are also engaged in security sector reform programmes, such as those supporting the Congolese and Somali police. The United Nations has an important role to play in support of activities that contribute to the protection of civilians. To that end, it is our hope that the United Nations will cooperate further in this area.

The international community should pay tribute to the sacrifices that African nations have been making and continue to extend its assistance. Japan recognizes the importance of securing predictable, sustainable and flexible funding. We have been taking active part in discussions addressing the needs, and will continue to make efforts to this end. The use of assessed contributions was one of the requests made yesterday in the discussion on Somalia. To help the Security Council to produce a feasible solution, taking into

account that request from the African Union, Japan is committed to continuing to be involved in extensive discussions with relevant actors and the Secretariat concerning the questions of how the troop level of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) can be increased and of whether or not the current logistics support package can be expanded, and if so, what scope and content will be envisaged.

It is essential that international partners strengthen their cooperation in support of African Union peacekeeping activities. In this connection, we welcome new partners in our efforts. We also appreciate the current reform efforts of the AU Commission and hope that the AU will be able to increase its capacity by enhancing its financial management. It is crucial to have proactive efforts at both ends.

It is our hope that the lessons learned from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and AMISOM will be closely analysed in the report of the Secretary-General to be issued within six months. Those lessons must be wisely utilized in future missions. Japan also hopes that the report will include an assessment of the activities and operation of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

To conclude my statement today, I would like to thank Uganda again for preparing the draft presidential statement, which Japan supports. A durable peace cannot be achieved by peacekeepers alone. Political and reconciliation processes are essential to consolidating peace. The Council is counting on the cooperation of African countries in this regard.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this debate on a topic of great importance to our efforts for peace and security. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/514) and to welcome the presence and statement of Mr. Lamamra on behalf of the African Union. My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made later by the representative of the European Union.

I should like to underscore the following points. First, we commend the efforts undertaken this past year by the African Union, often in the most difficult conditions. The African Union plays a significant role in the Sudan by contributing to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur; through the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by President Mbeki, who plays a facilitating role on the issues of Darfur and South Sudan; and, finally, through the role of the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, Mr. Djibril Bassolé, heading the Doha peace process. Similarly, in Somalia, the African Union's establishment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has prevented the seizure of Mogadishu by extremists. The contingents of Uganda and Burundi are making a significant effort to contain the violence of Al-Shabaab and protect the Transitional Federal Institutions.

We note that the African Union is one of the world's regional organizations that have most developed their partnership and cooperation with the United Nations. This exceptional relationship — forged both between the Security Council of the United Nations and the African Union's Peace and Security Council, and between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat — is justified, inter alia, by Africa's prominent place on the peacekeeping agenda. We welcome the growing role played by African States within peacekeeping operations, which are mostly deployed in Africa. We also believe that it is important to preserve the universal nature of the personnel of these operations.

The African Union contributes a great deal to the United Nations. It contributes proximity to the situation on the ground, intimate knowledge of the regional environment, and the conviction that the continent is taking responsibility for its own security, pursuant to the United Nations Charter. Conversely, the United Nations contributes to the African Union legitimacy in the context of its Charter, skills, resources and shared experiences that can assist the Union in its crisis prevention and management missions on the continent. Today, all our efforts are aimed at ensuring that this original and mutually beneficial partnership, imbued with the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, endures and improves.

In this respect, we believe that the official establishment in July of the new United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa will contribute to strengthening this partnership by further integrating the United Nations activities. I wish to congratulate the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Zachary Muburi-Muita, on his appointment to head the Office.

France, like its European Union partners, is greatly committed to supporting peacekeeping by African regional and subregional organizations, beginning with the African Union. The President of the Republic announced during the Africa-France summit in Nice in May that we intend to contribute €300 million over the next three years to bolster the peace and security architecture, in addition to our bilateral contribution to the European Union's African Peace Facility. We also intend to contribute to the training of 12,000 men.

We attach a special importance to strengthening African capacities in the field of training and deployment. The network of regionally oriented national schools, which we support, is an effective tool for training the various components of the African standby force and strengthening military, police and civilian capacities.

France also contributes significantly to European assistance, which surpasses €1 billion, to the maintenance of peace and security on the African continent. As the Secretary-General underscores in his report, the European Union has become a key partner of the African Union in the field of capacity-building and support for deployed peacekeeping operations. I recall, for example, that in Somalia the European Union's African Peace Facility has committed almost €95 million to AMISOM, and a decision to provide €47 million in additional financing was adopted last July. We must, however, abide by the operational rules of the European Union in this commitment, which means that, for instance, today we cannot finance lethal equipment with the Peace Facility.

In the case of Somalia, I wish to pay tribute in particular to the exemplary mobilization of Uganda, which hosts the European Union Somalia Training Mission and, with Burundi, contributes troops to AMISOM.

United Nations support for African Union operations calls for innovative responses on our part to the external and internal challenges we face. From the security perspective, the difficulty today lies in our ability to respond to new forms of cross-cutting threats facing the United Nations and the African Union. I note that the range of peacekeeping and political mediation tools is often not well adapted to this type of situation.

In the Sahel and on the west coast of Africa, we note an increase, and a growing overlap, in the factors of instability, terrorism, trafficking and rebellion, which undermine the security and the integrity of States. That is why support for security sector reform and promotion of the rule of law must, in time, become key elements of operations deployed by African regional and subregional organizations. How to achieve that?

In that regard, the peacebuilding work carried out by the Mission for the consolidation of peace in the Central African Republic, within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and with the financial support of the European Commission, France and ECCAS, has opened up noteworthy paths of work. In addition, the African mission project for assistance to security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, if it takes shape in suitable conditions, would also merit our attention, like its cooperation with the United Nations and the European Union. In other words, all of that shows that ways of supporting peace and security on the African continent are far from being fixed and uniform.

Internally, it is also very clear that the current difficult budgetary circumstances of contributing States should force us to seek greater efficiency in peacekeeping operations, while monitoring spending more closely. If we have decided to pursue our work that started in the context of the Franco-British initiative — which seeks to strengthen the chain of command of operations and to improve the cooperation with troop contributors — it is also to ensure stricter financial tracking of those operations, whose budget has increased exponentially in recent years.

We also believe that if the United Nations is to be committed to such a reform process, its partners cannot stay in the background, especially when their involvement is so great, as is the case with the African Union. In that regard, in the Secretary-General's report, we note with interest the efforts undertaken by the African Union to reform its management methods and to diversify its peacekeeping funding sources. However, the issue of operations follow-up remains crucial. The United Nations must retain primary responsibility for the operations that it funds.

For those reasons, both budgetary and operational, we believe that resorting to United Nations funding, through obligatory contributions, of

operations that it does not lead poses difficulties. That option should not serve as the cornerstone of broader and bolder consideration, which must be undertaken based on support for African peacekeeping capacities. In that regard, I would like to underscore that the new African Peace Facility of the European Union is a first appropriate response to the African request for predictable and sustained financing for peacekeeping operations led by Africa. We believe that we should be inspired by that voluntary step to support security on the African continent.

That brings me to conclude by underscoring that such support for African capacities concerns us all — the United Nations, the European Union, bilateral partners and international donors. But it is also, of course, the concern of African States themselves, whose willingness to take charge of their security governs any success. Rest assured that France will remain actively involved at their side.

Finally, I would like to voice my delegation's support for the draft presidential statement.

Ms. Anderson (United States): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important debate today. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/514) and briefing. My thanks go as well to the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), Ambassador Lamamra, for his important contributions to today's discussion.

The United States commends the African nations that provide resources, police officers and troops to support vital peacekeeping missions on the continent. In particular, we applaud the major deployment of more than 7,000 Ugandan and Burundian troops in Somalia and the critical work being done together with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Such contributions have improved security and saved lives across the continent, and they are helping to prevent threats to international peace and security from spreading further.

The United States fully supports strengthening the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). We are encouraged to see improved communication and collaboration between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. We also welcome the increased frequency with which African Union officials have briefed the Security Council and United Nations Special Representatives have briefed the AU Peace and Security Council.

My Government also supports the continued United Nations assistance to the AU in the development of the continental early-warning system, which, once it becomes operational, will further enhance the African Union's ability to prevent conflict. The United States is fully dedicated to supporting the African Union as it grapples with the complex challenges of illicit drug trafficking and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa. We also strongly support plans to enhance joint operational efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. My Government firmly supports the African Union's operations in Guinea-Bissau, the Sudan, the Central African Republic and Somalia.

Let me just say a few words about Somalia. The Djibouti peace process has moved forward and parts of Mogadishu have remained outside extremist control because of the efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The partnership between the United Nations and the AU has allowed both organizations to accomplish more than they could have on their own.

It is in our collective interest to support that partnership, and we welcome the opportunity to review its progress and consider way to make it more effective. The United States will continue its strong bilateral support to AMISOM's troop-contributing countries, but securing sustainable, predictable and flexible financing remains a key challenge to the AU's capacity to undertake effective peacekeeping operations.

The United States commitment to supporting the vision of the African Standby Force contributing to AU operations is broad and deep. Since 2005, the United States has provided more than $940 million to support ongoing African Union operations in Darfur and Somalia and capacity-building through the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Programme. The United States support for building up the capacity of the African Standby Force is focused at all three levels — continental, subregional and Member State. My Government welcomes the ongoing simulation and evaluation exercise known as Amani Africa, which we see as an important first step towards that goal.

Going forward, we expect that the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa will help make United Nations support to the AU better coordinated and more effective, especially in the area of financial management. That will help ensure that the AU has the capacity to use donor support effectively, even as we improve cooperation and coordination. We also support making more and better use of the AU Partners Group in Addis Ababa to help make donor funding to the AU Commission more sustainable and predictable.

We should also work together to further enhance the AU secretariat's capacity to plan, manage and sustain peacekeeping operations. We must identify areas that need additional support and attention from African and other partners, including logistics, mobility and mission management. We encourage continued efforts to operationalize the African Standby Force, and the United States will continue to support capacity-building and encourage others to support resource-intensive endeavours.

The United States would like to explore the possibility of better links between United Nations and African Union capabilities. We support a detailed analysis of the operational, budgetary, human resources and legal implications of letting AU peace support operations authorized by this Council have access to the United Nations logistics base in Brindisi, increased United Nations technical expertise, United Nations strategic deployment stocks and United Nations strategic lift capabilities, as recommended by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We would like to examine the preparatory reports as soon as they are available.

We also urge all those who seek peace and security to pay greater attention to the protection of civilians caught up in conflict and war. We applaud efforts to incorporate doctrine on protecting civilians into all aspects of the AU's peace support operations and related activities. The United States has increased efforts to deploy formed police units in Africa. Protecting civilians and responding to gender-based violence requires stronger advocacy and programme efforts from the AU and in the preparation of peacekeepers. We support doing more to enhance the civilian and police dimensions of peacekeeping in Africa.

Finally, the United States encourages the United Nations to continue its work with the African Union as it develops its peace and security architecture and the African standby force.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, my delegation would like to welcome you, Mr. President, and to congratulate you on taking the initiative to hold this debate devoted to assessing United Nations support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council. As an African country, Gabon recognizes the importance of this issue, which confirms the place that Africa occupies on the Council's agenda.

We thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of his report (S/2010/514). I also take this opportunity to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, and to thank him for his contribution to this debate. We also thank Mr. Lamamra for his valuable contribution. We share and support the views he so eloquently expressed.

As we take stock of the situation, we will touch on the following three points: the positive aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), the acknowledged shortcomings, and future prospects.

Concerning the first point, my delegation welcomes the active cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, based primarily on the 2006 agreement setting the framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. While it is true that many of the hopes cherished by Africa have not always been met, we must acknowledge that in recent years we have seen positive developments in many of the areas targeted by the programme.

Among the initiatives attesting to the vitality of this cooperation, we stress the joint United Nations-AU efforts undertaken in the context of the African-Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). This force, whose support, command and control structures are provided by the United Nations — and, I recall, headed by a joint Special Representative — has a military component under African command, functions with financial support from the United Nations, and is assisted by a Joint Mediator. Although its hybrid nature was seen as potentially jeopardizing its effectiveness, we must recognize that UNAMID has

contributed significantly to providing greater security in Darfur, without which the peace negotiations currently being conducted by Mr. Djibril Bassolé, and before him by Mr. Rodolphe Adada, would have been impossible.

In Somalia, we welcome the logistical and financial support provided by the United Nations to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its two support offices, based in Nairobi. In fact, the United Nations strategy for Somalia, launched in 2008, has contributed, inter alia, to strengthening AMISOM's operational capacity, allowing it to carry out more robust action under its mandate to defend the positions of the Transitional Federal Government and to protect the civilian population.

I should also mention the joint efforts of both organizations in the area of mediation and peacekeeping in the Sudan, particularly through the coordinated action of the African Union High-level Panel; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; the United Nations Mission in the Sudan; and the Panel on the Referenda in Sudan, recently announced by the Secretary-General. The joint efforts of the various stakeholders have created a environment conducive to the pursuit of the difficult peace talks currently under way in Darfur. Today, they guarantee the trust necessary to the positive development of the continuing negotiations between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, particularly with regard to the Abyei and South Sudan referendums.

My delegation also notes with satisfaction the increasingly close cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. Indeed, the consultative meetings held between those two organs since 2007 have allowed for an ongoing exchange of views and shared decision-making on issues of common interest in the area of peace and security. The signing of an agreement on 25 September by the Chair of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretary-General creating the Joint Task Force, as well as the opening in July in Addis Ababa of the United Nations Office to the African Union, are also the results of this approach, aimed at bringing the two organizations closer together.

While it is increasingly active, the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of international peace and security should be strengthened further. We have particularly in mind the financing of African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Council, as well as the logistical support for those missions. African Union support and peacekeeping operations require predictable and sufficient resources if they are to be more effective on the ground.

In this regard, we welcome the European Union support for the African Peace Facility, a European response to the African Union's resolve to shoulder responsibility for its own peace and security. Since its establishment, the Facility has allowed the African Union to carry out wide-ranging actions to prevent crises and provide post-conflict stabilization.

We also welcome the United Nations assessed contributions. It is, however, essential, as recommended in the Prodi report (S/2008/813), for the United Nations to set up a more flexible, predictable and sustainable financing mechanism for the African Union. We therefore endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation in this respect by inviting the United Nations to establish a standing trust fund to be managed by the African Union and accountable to it for its disbursements.

We cannot envisage the future of security in Africa without considering the effectiveness of the African standby force, created by the African Union to assist it in fully shouldering its responsibilities in carrying out its peacekeeping missions. Unfortunately, due to a lack of sufficient financing and logistical resources, the force is not yet operational. When it does become so, the standby force, whose various components will be based in the five subregions of the continent, will have the advantage of being able to mobilize very quickly. That will undoubtedly allow it to contain conflicts rapidly and to undertake timely efforts to restore peace. We therefore ask the international community to provide support for this force, whose action could be only extremely useful for the United Nations, which, by relying upon it, would necessarily avoid the all-too-frequent serious delays it shows when deploying its peacekeeping forces in Africa.

My delegation believes that the African Union, which has in recent years already made considerable efforts to be perceived as a credible partner in the maintenance of peace and security, must now focus in the long term on implementing its global strategic

framework to strengthen its capacities with the cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners. We welcome the fact that the presidential statement to be adopted at the end of this debate underscores the need for the Security Council to assist the African Union, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and to shoulder its full responsibility in maintaining peace and security throughout the Continent. The ultimate goal is to contribute to building an Africa free from conflict.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Mr. President, it is an honour to have you preside over the Security Council this morning. I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and recognize the presence among us today of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia. Let me also express appreciation to the Secretary-General and Commissioner Lamamra for their briefings.

Brazil concurs with the Secretary-General when he states that

> "Africa's needs are great, but so are the contributions that Africans have made for many years to keeping the peace in their region and beyond." (S/2010/514, para. 65).

We are convinced of the urgency of increasing United Nations support for the peacekeeping efforts of the African Union (AU). This support is a key part of the Organization's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is also a way of recognizing the major role that Africans have come to play in ensuring stability on their continent.

We thank the Secretary-General for the concrete and specific measures for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union that are presented in his report (S/2010/514). The establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union is of special relevance. We hope that the Office will be a valuable channel of communication and that it will help to increase cooperation between the two organizations.

The report indicates a number of areas in which the United Nations is assisting AU peacekeeping. We welcome that collaboration. We encourage the Secretary-General to continue exploring initiatives in the area of peacekeeping support and invite him to include his proposals in the report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at the end of the year.

The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in Somalia is an example of both the positive results it can bring and the need to further improve and strengthen our collaboration. The logistics support package provided by the United Nations has significantly improved the living and operations conditions of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops on the ground. The planning team, now part of the United Nations Office to the African Union, has provided important advice to the African Union Commission. Its work may become even more instrumental as we consider the African Union's proposal to increase the authorized strength of AMISOM to 20,000 troops, which Brazil supports.

Nevertheless, this support has still not been sufficient to raise AMISOM's standards to those of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Elements of the support package not covered by United Nations assessed contributions, such as the provision of heavy and lethal equipment and reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and troop allowances, have suffered from piecemeal donor support. The problem has been compounded by continued and numerous caveats and earmarks that seriously undermine the effectiveness of the support provided.

It is therefore necessary to continue to improve AMISOM's standards and provide the Mission with the enablers and capabilities needed for the fulfilment of its mandate, which is all the more important as AMISOM operates in a conflict whose volatility is extreme.

Beyond the specific case of AMISOM, we must also examine, in a serious and action-oriented manner, the question of financial support to African Union peacekeeping missions in general. The requirement for case-by-case authorization by the Council and subsequent budgetary approval by the General Assembly is a challenge that we can and should effectively address. If there is political will, these procedures should be sufficient to allow for adequate support for African Union peacekeeping. Ensuring that United Nations management regulations are duly followed may require some creativity, but it should be possible. Technical considerations, although important, must not prevent us from responding positively to the African Union to the maximum extent possible.

Before concluding, I would like to underline that, as we strive to improve our support for African Union peacekeeping, we cannot neglect the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. The United Nations has learned, sometimes painfully, that peacekeeping by itself is often not a sufficient strategy for dealing with conflict. The African Union has, in some cases, been even more aware than the United Nations of the need for an integrated approach to such situations. We must strengthen this approach and support the African Union's conflict prevention and mediation efforts.

The case for enhanced cooperation between the African Union and the Security Council has been well established. The cooperation has proven most valuable, as illustrated by the examples of AMISOM and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We must continue to strengthen that collaboration and seek to extend it to the whole gamut of issues on our shared agenda.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to start, Mr. President, by extending to you my appreciation for having convened this meeting. This initiative is extremely important in the light of the pivotal role played by the African Union as far as peace and security on the African continent is concerned. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his very important introductory comments and the report he submitted for our consideration today (S/2010/514). Of course, I would like to thank Mr. Lamamra for his important statement.

I would like to associate myself with my colleagues in welcoming His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria.

The Security Council, as part of its responsibility for maintaining peace and security, depends on close knowledge of the region and the background of its conflicts, as well as possessing the necessary tools to resolve its problems. It is clear that regional organizations possess these capacities, and that there is a need therefore to strengthen the role of those organizations.

The authors of the Charter of the United Nations devoted a whole chapter, Chapter VIII, to regional organizations, thereby enshrining their complementary role to that of the United Nations in this field. That is why it is important that, to achieve peace and security, there be cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and that their specific qualities be beneficial to each other.

The African Union plays a primary role: in the pre-conflict period, through preventive diplomacy; during conflicts, through efforts to contain and mitigate the impact of a conflict; and in the post-conflict period, by contributing to peacebuilding.

Having considered the Secretary-General's report, we should like to focus on the following points.

With respect to the strategic relationship between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, successful collective action depends on a successful and effective strategic partnership between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. We therefore welcome the annual consultative meetings between the two Councils, which have thus far focused on the best ways to enhance the capacity-building of the AU and to finance its missions in the fields of peace and security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The success of this partnership strategy will depend to a great extent on close cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union on 1 July. The Office pools and combines the mandates of many agencies and support mechanisms for peacekeeping operations in Africa, including Somalia and the Sudan, and represents an additional framework for joint action to prevent conflicts and promote disarmament and elections. We also welcome the creation of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security last month. The implementation of the partnership strategy is reflected in support for the African peace and security architecture. I would stress the importance in that regard of the AU 10-year capacity-building programme and the multi-year initiatives referred to by the Secretary-General, as well as joint action within the country framework.

With regard to peacekeeping, the deployment by the African Union of peacekeeping operations authorized and sanctioned by the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security is most important. We therefore urge the United Nations to increase its assistance to the African Union in the deployment of and support to its peacekeeping operations, including by enhancing the African standby force and current operations in Somalia and the Sudan.

In that context, we await the outcome of the evaluation of the African standby force, known as *Amani Africa*, which should be issued this month.

Similarly, we welcome the joint work of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission in establishing a series of basic guidelines for the AU in the protection of civilians, as well as the support of the United Nations for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the strengthening of its capacities in the protection of civilians. We anticipate greater future support through a long-term capacity-building road map enabling the partners to provide enhanced assistance to the African Union.

Finally, with regard to the United Nations contribution to the success of the African Union's peacekeeping operations, such success will depend largely on the provision of adequate resources for these operations. However, securing sustainable, predictable and flexible financing, pursuant to resolution 1809 (2008), represents a major challenge. AU peacekeeping operations should not be financed by voluntary contributions, which, while we appreciate them, do not guarantee the sustainability of operations. When it deploys peacekeeping operations, the African Union acts on behalf and relies on the support of the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The African Union's request for the consideration of using assessed contributions to finance its operations in specific cases is therefore eminently justified. In this regard, we recall the Secretary-General's statement that the logistics support package for AMISOM would greatly improve the living conditions of its personnel, as was reaffirmed by the AMISOM Force Commander in yesterday's debate (see S/PV.6408).

Mr. Puente (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to join previous speakers, Sir, in thanking your country for its leadership on the issue before us today and for having convened this very timely debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for the information he presented to us. We again welcome Ambassador Lamamra to the Security Council.

We welcome the positive advances that have been made since the debate that was held on this subject in October 2009 (see S/PV.6206) in strengthening the strategic relationship between the United Nations and African Union, such as the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union, support for the development of the African standby force, and progress in establishing the African peace and security architecture. The cooperation achieved between the two organizations under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter is an important signal that should inspire us to redouble our efforts to consolidate our energies and common vision of objectives, regular interaction and the coordination of areas of mutual interest to meet the challenges to the continent.

We appreciate the United Nations efforts to provide support and training to the African Union and subregional organizations in their initiatives to manage conflicts on the continent through mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in contexts that are often difficult and dangerous and with limited resources. These activities must be complemented by a review process of peacekeeping operations, such as that initiated by the United Nations last year, in particular in the Security Council, in order to ensure that conflict prevention, the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of peace, and the promotion of development have a tangible impact on the ground.

Challenges to international peace and security and the multidimensional nature of this century's conflicts have further complicated the deployment of peacekeeping missions, in particular in Africa. Although progress has been achieved in cooperation between the main bodies of this Organization and the African Union, much remains to be done given the challenges we face in such conflicts and humanitarian situations as those in Somalia, the Sudan, Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to name but a few. There are also ongoing risks of destabilization in certain regions as a result of institutional changes in Government, political violence, human rights violations and such transnational threats as organized crime and the illicit traffic in weapons and drugs, which undermine institutions and the rule of law.

Against that backdrop, it is important that the annual meetings between the African Union Peace and Security Council and this Security Council focus on substantive issues of mutual interest and that they be supplemented with joint strategies and measures to assess results. We believe that the promotion of the capacities of the African Union must continue to focus on areas of cooperation with the Organization. It is essential to continue to move forward in meeting the

objectives of the African Union's 10-year capacity-building programme, in particular by developing the operational capacities of the African standby force and strengthening the African peace and security architecture.

We recognize the fact that, beyond training, logistics and material support are key to peacekeeping, in particular in complex conflict situations. Our delegation believes that the successful deployment of any peacekeeping operation requires a clear mandate and the support and resources necessary to the effective implementation of that mandate.

The importance of having predictable, sustainable and flexible financing mechanisms is of the greatest importance when it comes to peacekeeping missions in Africa, given the material and logistical constraints of the African Union. We therefore support the Secretary-General's recommendation to find a more predictable and sustainable mechanism, especially in order to ensure that that regional organization can achieve the goals set out in the African Peace and Security Architecture. We also think it is necessary to make progress on improving peacekeeping operations on the ground and making them more effective.

We would also like to reiterate the importance of promoting comprehensive and long-term regional and local strategies and measures in such areas as preventive diplomacy and mediation, the protection of civilians and strengthening institutions and the rule of law.

We urge the Secretary-General to ensure that those elements are broadly incorporated in the capacity-building and cooperation efforts of the United Nations Office in Addis Ababa. We hope that his next report, in six months' time, will include concrete recommendations to improve peacekeeping models in Africa through lessons learned and the collaboration of the African Union and the United Nations in Somalia, Sudan and Darfur.

In conclusion, I would like to express my delegation's support for the draft presidential statement that we will adopt at the end of this debate.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate, which demonstrates the commitment of the Security Council to strengthening the links with the African Union (AU). I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for briefing us on his report (S/2010/514) and to welcome the important interventions from His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Nigeria and from Mr. Lamamra.

The African Union's designated year of peace and security is an appropriate time to take stock of the United Nations-AU relationship. The African Union has made constructive and significant engagements on peace and security challenges in Somalia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger and the Sudan. As we discussed yesterday, the joint AU-United Nations activity to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is an example of the vital cooperation between the two organizations. We commend Uganda and Burundi for their continued commitment to AMISOM.

Yesterday's meeting showed how central the relationship is to achieving our shared peace and security objectives. But we should acknowledge that we are only just starting to develop the truly strategic relationship that we all want to see. There has been practical progress in three areas.

The first was the launch of mechanisms to promote a more structured relationship between the two organizations. We welcome this. The United Nations Office in Addis Ababa should improve the effectiveness of United Nations engagement with the African Union. We also welcome the launch by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security to review immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues.

Secondly, work on the institutional development of the African Union is under way. We look forward to the November review of progress made so far in the United Nations Ten-year Capacity-building Programme for the AU. We welcome the African Union's framework to finance the recruitment of staff to work on peace and security. We will contribute to the joint salaries fund that will facilitate this. We encourage others to do the same.

Thirdly, we welcome the progress made in African Union financial management capacity over the past 12 months. Building AU management capacity, including resource management, is essential, not only to manage immediate and future peacekeeping operations but also to enable a more effective partnership between the African Union and donors. We

need to build on this progress as part of a transition to a more predictable funding process.

The United Kingdom welcomes the financial support provided by all the African Union's current partners. European Union assistance to the AU on peace and security issues, which totals €1 billion, is a major source of predictable and sustainable funding. The African Peace Facility supports the costs of deploying United Nations-authorized AU peace-support operations. The United Kingdom itself remains a key donor to African Union peace and security efforts in its own right, including through the training of peacekeepers and support for mediation and peace-support operations.

We recognize, however, as the Secretary-General pointed out this morning, the need to work towards longer-term and more predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for African Union-led operations under a United Nations mandate. Sustained engagement and commitment from a broader base of donors is essential. As we noted yesterday, AMISOM in particular urgently needs more support from a wider range of donors, and with fewer caveats.

These are all important practical steps, which are concretizing the relationship. We are beginning to see some practical impact. I was encouraged by the discussion this past summer between the Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council. But I would highlight three areas that need particular attention as we move forward.

First, we need to establish a broader strategic framework for the African Union-United Nations relationship. I welcome the Secretary-General's intention to define his strategic vision of cooperation in his next report, which should provide a good foundation for establishing a clearer idea of what we want to achieve together. Without that overarching framework, the debate over financing risks becoming an obstacle to the future deepening of our cooperation, which we all want to see.

Secondly, we need to be more frank with each other about what works and what does not work. There are many lessons to be learned — for example, from the experience of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We have at times appeared to be talking past each other on Somalia, particularly with regard to military strategy. We need to do better at focusing on concrete plans for addressing specific conflict situations.

Thirdly, we both need to do a better job on conflict prevention. Again, this requires a frank dialogue and a determination to take the difficult decisions necessary to address emerging conflict situations. We want to see the Security Council devote more attention to conflict prevention, including in Africa. The African Union's partnership will be essential in achieving that.

We look forward to working closely with the African Union on all these important issues, including through next year's meeting of the two Councils, and we look forward to the Secretary-General's next report.

I can fully support the draft presidential statement that has been negotiated.

Mr. Ebner (Austria): We would like to thank you, Sir, for chairing this important debate. Your presence shows the importance that Uganda attaches to the subject matter before us. We would also like to welcome the Secretary-General for introducing his report (S/2010/514) on support to African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. We also thank Commissioner Lamamra for his statement.

Austria aligns herself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union (EU) later in this meeting.

Austria has always underlined that efficient United Nations support for AU peacekeeping is of great importance. The role played by the AU in maintaining peace and security on the African continent is essential and complementary to the work of the United Nations and the Security Council. We welcome the numerous positive steps taken by the African Union and the Secretariat to further enhance their cooperation. The first meeting of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security underlines the commitment of both organizations. We look forward to the outcome of the next meeting in January.

The annual meetings between the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council are useful opportunities to discuss substantive issues of mutual concern. The Secretary-General's proposal that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa should serve as an informal secretariat to these meetings is a valuable idea that

should be further considered. In order to complement such high-level meetings, we believe that working-level exchanges should continue to be intensified. For such efforts to be substantial, it is necessary that the conclusions of the meetings receive appropriate follow-up.

The establishment of the integrated United Nations presence in Addis Ababa is highly welcome. It reduces duplication, enables the United Nations to make full use of the synergies that have been created and facilitates working in a more cost-efficient manner. We hope that the African Union will make full use of the benefits of the Office.

Austria fully supports efforts aimed at intensifying cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union and its regional economic commissions, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community. In addition, we believe that intensified cooperation with the European Union, which also cooperates closely with the African Union in the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, would be an asset and bring about the benefit of both organizations' comparative advantage. The upcoming EU-AU summit will be an important opportunity to strengthen this relationship.

Strengthening the institutional capacities of the AU is a prerequisite for the AU to take on a more significant role in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. We commend the African Union Commission for its leadership in strengthening African capabilities. It is important for all AU member States to lend their full support to these efforts. We look forward to the midterm review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme. Capacity-building should be aimed at strengthening national ownership and focus on the most urgent needs, such as enhancing capacities in the fields of security sector reform and the rule of law. As the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrates, these are crucial reforms for the maintenance of peace and stability.

Austria concurs with the Secretary-General on the challenge of adequate financing for AU-led peacekeeping missions authorized by the United Nations. We maintain that all existing options should continue to be considered in that regard.

In order for operations such as the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to be ultimately successful, we believe that a clear division of labour and definition of the roles and responsibilities of each organization are paramount. The issue of accountability lies at the core of United Nations support to AU peacekeeping, and we very much welcome that the AU Commission has embarked on significant management reform over recent years. We encourage the Commission to continue its work to that effect.

Let me stress that, in the light of the limited human and financial resources available for peacekeeping, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention need to be given more attention by the international community in general, and the Security Council in particular, as well as by regional and subregional organizations. It is indisputable that, in terms of cost effectiveness, conflict prevention and resolution benefit from a substantial comparative advantage over other forms of engagement, such as large-scale conflict intervention and post-conflict reconstruction.

Finally, let me express my full support for the draft presidential statement and thank Uganda for its role in drafting it and leading the negotiations to a successful result.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Finland.

Mr. Haavisto (Finland): At the outset, let me congratulate Uganda as President of the Security Council for taking up the important topic of peace and security in Africa and support for African Union (AU) peacekeeping.

I associate myself fully with the statement that will be made on behalf of the European Union (EU).

We have to recognize that African Union peacekeeping has already made a difference in two of the most challenging conflicts on the continent, namely, the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, and the conflict in Somalia. The African Union was the first to react to the atrocities in Darfur through its African Union Mission in the Sudan operation, which has now been incorporated into the joint African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. The current African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is working under the utmost of difficult conditions on the ground in Mogadishu and providing basic security for the Transitional Federal Government and for the people

of Mogadishu. Uganda and Burundi have continued to be the major troop-contributing countries to AMISOM, despite the risky situation on the ground.

The AU-led AMISOM in Somalia is in many ways one of the most demanding operations being conducted. It is in the fundamental interest of African countries and international partners to ensure that the AU-led operations operate efficiently and on a sound financial basis. Together we also need to do more to build African capabilities. We warmly welcome closer cooperation among the AU, EU and United Nations towards that end.

While the AU and subregional organizations have a key role in the management and resolution of African crises, cooperation and support from international partners are important. Finland is committed to support EU and United Nations efforts in this field. Currently, for example, we are supporting the Amani Africa exercise as well as a United Nations pre-deployment course for African police officers to be deployed in Darfur and Somalia. Together with other Nordic countries, we are examining ways to enhance our support for the development of the East Africa standby force.

With regard to Somalia, Finland contributes to the fight against piracy trough the EU Operation Atalanta and to the training of Somali security forces through the EU training mission. However, we all know that efforts conducted outside Somalia will have little impact unless we are simultaneously able to support the Somali peace process and a stronger AMISOM presence in Somalia. Therefore, Finland is also preparing funding to additionally support the United Nations Political Office for Somalia in its efforts to reach out to all stakeholders to achieve sustainable peace in Somalia.

We look forward to the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-AU cooperation on peace and security. We hope that the report will also be able to provide more clarity on the question of more predictable funding for United Nations-mandated AU operations. In that regard, we also welcome the management reforms within the AU Commission as well as the efforts of the Commission to strengthen the African Union's own resource base.

I want to take up two examples of how Finland supports its African partners in the field of peace and security. First, we support the AU in developing its peace mediation capacity through a three-year programme. The purpose of this programme is to develop Africa's own capacities to prevent and resolve conflicts, including support in the participation of women and adequate consideration of gender issues in peace processes. We wish to congratulate the African Union for its work in advancing the agenda on women, peace and security. As the Security Council prepares to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its resolution 1325 (2000) next week, it is good to remember that the strong call for the resolution came from African countries, including civil society actors.

Secondly, Finland contributes to the work of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by former South African President Mbeki. The aim of the Panel is to provide support for the Sudanese parties in resolving the conflict in Darfur and in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Also, the role of regional organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), is important. Finland has supported IGAD in its Somalia and Sudan activities since 2004.

Non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in enhancing peace and security. Finland, together with the South African non-governmental organization the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, established the African Peacebuilding Coordination Programme. We have also been a longstanding supporter of Femmes Africa Solidarité, most recently in their work in assisting the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in the preparations of their national action plans on women, peace and security.

Despite the economic crisis, Finland has been able to increase its official development assistance (ODA) funding. More than 50 per cent of our ODA goes to Africa.

The African Union and the subregional organizations in Africa have created a political and security architecture for the continent that deserves our full recognition and praise. I believe it is in the interest of everyone that the African Union develops further into an even stronger actor. The crisis prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development efforts of African organizations deserve all possible support from international partners.

Also to this end, the United Nations Security Council must be enlarged to better correspond to the current realities in the world. I think it would be in the interest of all of us if Africa were more strongly represented in the Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October and for having convened this debate on the issue of peace and security in Africa and support for peacekeeping operations of the African Union (AU), to which our two countries attach particular importance. I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for having honoured us at this important meeting with your presence.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his exhaustive presentation and to pay tribute to him for his commitment to the service of strengthening the capacity of the AU to meet the challenges facing the African continent in the areas of maintaining peace and security.

I would like to recognize the presence of Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, and thank him for his edifying statement.

I would also like to welcome the presence at this important meeting of His Excellency Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, and Mr. Yusuf Hasan Ibrahim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

My delegation has looked with great interest at the report introduced by the Secretary-General (S/2010/514) on supporting peacekeeping operations of the African Union authorized by the United Nations and we welcome the development of cooperation between the AU and the Organization, which reflects our wish to have a strategic relationship between these two organizations that can develop on an equal and harmonized footing.

We also note with satisfaction the concrete measures taken to strengthen cooperation between these two organizations, be it between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council or between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission.

In that regard, we also welcome the fourth joint consultative meeting between the members of the Security Council and the members of the AU Peace and Security Council held this past June and the creation on 1 July of the United Nations Office to the AU in Addis Ababa, as well as the much welcomed appointment of Ambassador Muburi-Muita to head that body.

Often seen as the main theatre for peacekeeping operations, Africa is now becoming a stakeholder in its own operations. The African Peace and Security Architecture has now made progress and is experiencing an increase in influence, thanks to further AU efforts to develop a strategic vision and military capacity to meet the challenges of peacekeeping.

These efforts are clear proof of the commitment and determination of African leaders to back-up decisions taken at African meetings and summits with operational actions that will accelerate their implementation on the ground. An important example of this is the special African Union Summit, held in Tripoli on 31 August 2009, at which, among others things, a courageous decision was taken to double the part of the AU budget devoted to peacekeeping operations from 6 to 12 per cent.

Far from being sufficient to justify full autonomy, the actions of the AU are still facing a lack of resources and capacity weaknesses, while the demands for urgent response are increasingly great. It is in that spirit that, in January 2010, the Assembly of the AU requested the United Nations to consider, under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the possibility of financing through mandatory assessments to the peacekeeping operations led by the AU or those under its authority with the consent of the United Nations.

The AU Peace and Security Council reiterated that request at a recent meeting. The adoption of such measures would guarantee the AU the capacity it needs to carry out its activities and to ensure success of its missions under a Security Council mandate.

The outstanding work done by the joint task force of the AU and the United Nations, including the recommendations in the report, have identified actions that need to be undertaken. For, despite numerous positive signs in the area of cooperation between the organizations, much remains to be done in terms of

role-sharing and defining the modalities for intervention.

As a point of fact, the Secretary-General clearly stated in his report that

> "without a truly strategic relationship and clear guidance, our efforts to work together will continue to be short-term, ad hoc, more complicated and often more costly" (S/2010/514, para. 55).

In this context, the report that the Secretary-General intends to submit soon and which will, among other things, further define a strategy for cooperation between the Organization and the AU in the area of peacekeeping, could provide us with guidelines for a better partnership between our two organizations.

Before concluding, allow me to reiterate the commitment of Algeria to cooperate with the international community to establish lasting peace and security at the regional and international levels and, at the same time, to pay a powerful tribute to those working on the ground, who courageously work for peace and the achievement of the principles and purposes of the Organization, often at the cost of their own lives.

The President: I thank the representative of Algeria for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): My delegation wishes to convey its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to participate in this debate, which is of strategic importance to my country, our region and the international community at large. This debate is also of strategic importance to the strengthening of the relationship between Africa and the United Nations.

Your personal presence in presiding over this meeting, Mr. Minister, as well as that of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, provides clear testimony to the importance Africa extends to this relationship.

We thank the Secretary-General for introducing his report on this matter (S/2010/514). We view his presence here today as a clear expression of the importance that he too attaches to the issue. In the same vein, we welcome the presence and participation of Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU).

In her statement to the General Assembly on 25 September 2010, our Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Her Excellency Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, stated that,

> "The United Nations should see Africa as a partner in the maintenance of international peace and the management of conflicts, and accordingly do more to strengthen the working relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council." (A/65/PV.17)

That statement is consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, which endows the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In Chapter VIII, the Charter also empowers regional organizations to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, the AU has developed a comprehensive African Peace and Security Architecture, an institutional response designed to effectively prevent, mitigate and resolve conflict within the region.

The political will, commitment and resolve of the AU to address issues of security have found practical expression in the myriad of preventative and diplomatic missions the organization has undertaken over the years. That commitment has also been evidenced by AU initiatives aimed at peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and development on the continent. In cases where the international community, and the Security Council in particular, was unwilling or unable to act, the AU, despite its own limitations, has sent troops to maintain peace and provide security in conflict areas in Africa. This was the case in the recent past with the deployment of the African Union Missions in Burundi, Sudan and Somalia.

In the eyes of ordinary people on the African continent, it seems that so many innocent people have to die, so much innocent blood shed, before the Security Council assumes its responsibility to protect and maintain stability on the continent. Some have even quipped that the Security Council moves with a speed of a cheetah in responding to crises elsewhere, and moves with a speed of an elephant to respond to conflicts in Africa. We must continue to reaffirm through our actions that the United Nations stands for all of us.

These examples illustrate clearly that the AU should and must be seen as a partner to the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in Africa. My delegation, however, takes note of the ongoing efforts by the United Nations in supporting the AU in carrying out peace support and peacekeeping missions authorized by the United Nations. However, this does not absolve the Security Council of its primary responsibility in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security.

It remains the AU's priority to enhance institutionalized cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. We believe that this cooperation is essential in establishing sustainable peace throughout our continent. My delegation notes with satisfaction the efforts by the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council to collaborate and articulate a coherent and effective strategic partnership. In this regard, we welcome the annual consultative meetings between the two Councils since 2007 and the commitment expressed during the fourth joint consultative meeting to further strengthening this cooperation. My delegation also encourages more regular and intensified interaction between the two Councils.

While the report provides an excellent overview of the tremendous progress made by both organizations in strengthening and operationalizing the AU machinery for peacemaking and peacekeeping, it also raises a number of challenges at the strategic level. In this regard, we shall limit ourselves to commenting on the following areas.

We concur with the Secretary-General's report and encourage the Security Council to move away from the current ad hoc, short-term arrangements to a more strategic vision of the partnership it wishes to have with the AU, one that would better serve its mandate to maintain international peace and security. Such a vision, according the Secretary-General, would empower and enable both the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations legislative bodies to align their actions with this broader strategic vision.

The critical challenge of funding, which was highlighted in the Prodi panel report (S/2008/813), is again raised in the report of the Secretary-General, where he states that "the current financial frameworks for partnerships in peacekeeping operations are not conducive to building a sustainable long-term strategy" (S/2010/514, para. 61). This therefore warrants that the United Nations urgently review and seek ways of ensuring predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU on behalf of the international community.

South Africa also welcomes the commitment by the Secretary-General to submit a report within six months that will define and outline the Secretariat's strategic vision for United Nations-AU cooperation in peace and security and examine the increased variety of models for peacekeeping in Africa. The annual Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council meetings should seize the opportunity to jointly and closely consider that report, with a view to identifying and adopting concrete recommendations for immediate implementation.

Regarding the current African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), my delegation wishes to reiterate the call by the AU for the Security Council to, among other things, endorse the newly authorized strength of AMISOM; authorize an enhanced support package for AMISOM funded through United Nations assessed contributions; impose a naval blockade and a no-fly zone over Somalia; approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner; and commit to recast AMISOM as a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

Finally, paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) resonates in recognizing "the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate". We therefore call on the Security Council to implement its own resolutions in that regard. We are convinced the results of the implementation of that resolution can only contribute positively to the maintenance of international peace and security. Then the ordinary people of the African continent could say that "the United Nations does indeed stand for all of us".

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the European Union.

Mr. Serrano (European Union): At the outset, I should like to thank you, Sir, for having invited the European Union (EU) to participate in this debate. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the

Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this declaration.

We welcome the Secretary-General's report on support to Africa Union peacekeeping and today's debate (S/2010/514), which shows the continued attention that the Security Council is paying to the role of African regional institutions in peacekeeping, as well as to the role and responsibilities of regional organizations on the whole. At the same time, I would like to thank the Ugandan presidency of the Security Council for its efforts in this field as demonstrated by the presence of the First Deputy Prime Minster of Uganda here today.

I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Commissioner Lamamra and Mr. Ajumogobia for their important statements.

The United Nations relations with regional, subregional and other international organizations should become truly strategic partnerships. Progress in this direction could result in a qualitative leap of the overall United Nations system's capacity to prevent, respond and stabilize. The EU strongly believes in such partnerships and fully supports any effective, focused and well coordinated effort to further develop and operationalize them.

The European Union welcomes the Secretary-General proposals aimed at widening and strengthening United Nations cooperation with the African Union (AU). In practical terms, we consider that close cooperation among the African Union, United Nations institutions and other relevant bodies has improved in recent years. We are encouraged that the modalities and parameters for such cooperation have been well established thus far, including thanks to the Prodi panel report (see S/2008/813) and the subsequent reports by the Secretary-General.

The European Union warmly welcomes the launch of the AU-UN Joint Task Force on Peace and Security as an important mechanism to enhance strategic cooperation between the two organizations in preventing and resolving conflicts.

We also welcome the consolidation of the United Nations offices in Addis Ababa into a single composite office capable of a playing a stronger role, both in its relations with the AU as well as with the local EU delegation. I wish to congratulate United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Zachary Muburi-Muita for his appointment as head of the United Nations Office to the African Union, and we look forward to work with him and his staff.

The European Union welcomes the commendable efforts of the African Union in the area of peace and security and we are pleased to see that the Secretary-General's report recognizes the relevant role played by the European Union in that regard. We have directly supported the deployment of AU peace support operations but also the progressive build-up of the policies and pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture. These efforts are articulated in detail within the Joint Africa-European Union Partnership for Peace and Security and its three-year action plans. This Partnership is, in turn, underpinned by a financing architecture of more than €1 billion, which makes possible long-term programming and ensures the sustainability of efforts.

The European Union instrument known as the African Peace Facility represents a major source of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for African-led peace-support operations. With a total allocation of €740 million since 2004, the Facility has provided a major part of the funding for the strengthening of the capacities of relevant institutions and structures and for the strengthening of interactions between the African Union and African subregional organizations. It has also financed a number of African-led peace operations, such as the former African Union Mission in the Sudan, the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the Mission for the consolidation of peace in the Central African Republic, and two African Union operations in the Comoros.

The upcoming third Africa-EU Summit, to take place in Libya on 29-30 November 2010, will therefore be an opportunity to take stock of our first three-year action plan of the Peace and Security Partnership and of the activities carried out so far. As for the future, the summit will lay the foundations of a comprehensive road map based on a joint assessment of the African peace and security architecture pillars and on the results of the *Amani Africa* exercise, both just completed.

In cooperation with the African Union, we are ready to step up our contribution to the work of the United Nations as presented in the Secretary-General's report, and to share the lessons learned from our political, technical and financial support to the African peace and security architecture and to African peace operations.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that the European Union is strongly committed to further developing its own strategic partnerships with the African Union and with the United Nations. The Secretary-General's report highlights the extent of United Nations and African Union cooperation, the scope of which is strikingly similar to the ongoing African Union-European Union cooperation. It is clear that our organizations are driven by common agendas and face common challenges. I therefore fully support the encouragement of the Secretary-General to work more in this direction.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): I join previous speakers in commending you, Mr. President, for organizing today's debate on peace and security in Africa and support to African Union peacekeeping. The importance of this debate is further underlined by your presidency and the presence here of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Somalia, whom I greet very especially. I also wish to express my thanks for the useful statement by the Secretary-General, and to welcome his comprehensive and valuable report on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2010/514). Let me also thank Ambassador Lamamra for his briefing and his important contribution to today's debate.

Portugal naturally shares the views contained in the statement just made by the representative of the European Union, so let me only mention some specific points that we think should be stressed.

The history of the United Nations shows that peacekeeping operations are not a short-term activity. In this regard, partnerships with regional organizations are playing an increasingly important role in our collective peace and security, under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and always with respect for the primary role of the Security Council.

There are several examples of this collaboration, including with the European Union in Chad or Kosovo and with the African Union in the Sudan and Somalia. Today, we are analysing that last situation: the African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. It has become more and more clear that, if they are to be successful, it is necessary that we develop an effective and strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union that not only envisages the direct support of the United Nations to the African Union when the latter is conducting operations authorized by the United Nations, but also helps the African Union to develop its own capacities in this area. This is a partnership that will have to work in two directions by also reinforcing the United Nations political capacities and increasing its preventive diplomacy capacities. Both organizations and their member States agree on that, but to achieve it, there must be persistence, flexibility and sustained political commitment from all parts involved.

Since the issuance of the Prodi report (S/2008/813), several important steps have been taken, as noted in the Secretary-General's report under consideration today. Portugal welcomes the recent launching of the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. This is a commitment of the utmost importance to strengthening the strategic cooperation between the two organizations in this area.

We also welcome the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in July, headed by our former colleague Zachary Muburi-Muita, whom I salute and congratulate most warmly. We believe that the establishment of the Office will help to reduce duplication and reinforce the joint work where it is most needed — at the local level.

All these are very significant steps towards the enhancement of the strategic cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, as are the annual consultative meetings between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, which provide the fundamental political commitment. Nevertheless, more should be done to achieve a truly and essential strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

The new United Nations Office in Addis Ababa will have a key role to play in the development of these

relations, and I am confident that it will do so. Also, the day-to-day relations between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission — through the implementation of the framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, and through more regular and operational communication — will be essential.

The Secretary-General's suggestion to use the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa as an informal secretariat to the meetings between the Security Council and the African Union Commission could be a step towards ensuring that those meetings will have concrete and substantive results.

Capacity- and institution-building in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as well as management, are crucial areas to be supported. Portugal praises all the work being done here by the Secretariat and all the efforts being conducted on the African Union side, and we urge the African Union and all its members to continue these efforts, thus becoming more capable of assuming full ownership of their own peace and security.

We recognize that, even with all these efforts going on, there are other major challenges, difficult to overcome, to improving the effectiveness of the African Union authorized peacekeeping operations. One example is the imbalance between the number of deployed forces and the vastness of the territories; another is the related challenge of financing the missions.

Portugal, while recognizing the enormous efforts the United Nations has undertaken regarding increasingly large and complex operations in Africa, believes that the African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations require more sustainable, predictable and flexible financing in their current form. Portugal welcomes the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, as stated in his report, regarding budgeting and financial management and accountability reform. We consider that a certain measure of pragmatism and realism will be necessary to address this issue.

Finally, I would also say a word regarding the relevance of subregional organizations in the African peace and security architecture. These organizations can have an important role to play in helping to maintain peace and security in their regions, but their capacity must be improved in this sense. The United Nations could also have a role here, helping them to build their capacities and institutions and reinforcing effective coordination with them. This would undoubtedly also reinforce the United Nations capacity in mediating conflicts and in preventive diplomacy.

In conclusion, much has been done in the past year regarding the development of this strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. Portugal is strongly committed to supporting the continuation of these efforts, as they are essential to promoting peace and security in all parts of the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya.

Mr. Maina (Kenya): I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to address the Council on a matter that we consider to be crucial to peace and security in Africa. Kenya welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2010/514). The report addresses important issues related to peacekeeping operations and a number of recommendations that warrant our collective consideration.

Regional organizations play a pivotal role in matters of peace and security, and indeed serve to further the Council's mandate of ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security. The African Union in particular has played and continues to play this role in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Africa. However, there are many challenges that face the African Union in the deployment and management of peacekeeping operations. The question of capacity-building is vital if the institutional development of the African Union is to be strengthened. Capacity-building is important to enable the African Union to address not only immediate peacekeeping operations, but also conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

Partnership between the United Nations and the African Union is crucial in addressing the question of peace and security in Africa. In that regard we note that the Secretary-General's report underscores the necessity of a close strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and gives direction on mechanisms and processes to be put in place so as to enhance this critical partnership.

We are encouraged by the increased momentum of a bid to strengthen and solidify the relationship between the two organizations. We welcome the establishment in July of the United Nations Office to the African Union, headed by Ambassador Muburi Muita. The fusion of the various United Nations offices in Addis Ababa into a single compact office will certainly greatly assist in streamlining the channels of interaction between the United Nations and the African Union. Indeed, by reducing duplication and pooling resources in a more cost-efficient manner, the United Nations Office to the African Union will be a prime example of the evolution of qualitative engagement between the African Union and the United Nations.

The issue of funding in support of African Union peacekeeping operations has been on the table for quite a while. The Prodi panel report (S/2008/813) and subsequent reports, assessments and initiatives have all sought ways for the United Nations to assist the African Union to improve effectiveness in deploying and managing peacekeeping operations mandated by the United Nations. The United Nations has indeed recognized the importance of enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for the African Union's peace and security capability. It is our hope that the strengthened partnership between the United Nations and the African Union will lead to a better understanding of the dynamics involved and a way forward in this matter.

In the specific case of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Kenya strongly supports the call made yesterday to this Council by the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Lamamra (see S/PV.6407) to endorse the newly authorized strength of AMISOM and authorize an enhanced support package for it, as well as all of the other four action points raised by the Commissioner, including rehatting AMISOM.

In conclusion, I wish to recall the Secretary-General's observation in the current report that:

> "Africa's needs are great, but so are the contributions that Africans have made ... to keeping the peace in their region and beyond." (*S/2010/514, para. 65*)

Therefore, it is only right and just that the United Nations and international partners walk the path with Africa as it seeks solutions to the conflicts that have sadly ravaged the African continent for so long.

We look forward to the Secretary-General's report that intends to define the Secretariat's strategic vision for United Nations and African Union cooperation in peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate. We very much welcome the presence of African leaders in the Chamber today. That is a strong statement of the understandable importance that countries of Africa give this item. Australia shares that sense of importance.

The item under consideration today goes to the heart of how the system of international relations conceived by the United Nations Charter in 1945 must remain relevant to the contemporary challenge of maintaining international peace and security in circumstances that we all know are so very different from those when the United Nations was established. It is for the same contemporary reasons that early Security Council reform must lead to increased African representation on the Council.

Australia welcomes the latest report from the Secretary-General (S/2010/514). Obviously, some real progress has been made over the past 12 months in strengthening both the strategic and, more importantly, the operational partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU).

The annual consultative meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and this Council has become a fixture on the meetings calendar. It embodies the importance of those two bodies forging the close and strategic partnership that is needed. Also at the strategic level, we were particularly pleased to participate in the inaugural meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission earlier this year. That relationship also is one that needs to evolve into a strong and effective partnership.

We welcome the recent establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa. That should create greater synergies and efficiencies in the United Nations-AU relationship. The range of other measures set out in the Secretary-General's report are all practical, sensible and need to be expanded into the future, including staff exchanges,

annual retreats and ongoing collaboration on country specific issues. All of that should ensure that the AU, in developing its own systems, learns from the experience and best practices of the United Nations.

Australia welcomes the progress that has been made. It is in the global interest of all of us that the AU continue to develop as a credible and strong regional organization that is fully equipped to deal with the challenges of the African continent, especially in relation to conflict prevention and response.

The AU and African troop-contributing countries are carrying a large and difficult — but impressive — responsibility when it comes to peacekeeping in Africa. The broader international community needs to recognize the role those countries are playing in the direct maintenance of regional and international peace and security, and take steps to support them.

For our part, we have been pleased to contribute, in a small way, to strengthening the AU's peace and security architecture. Australia has given practical support to the efforts of the African Union Commission to develop AU guidelines on the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, as referenced in the Secretary-General's report, and we will continue to support the AU in that endeavour.

Australia is supporting the E-learning for African Peacekeepers — ELAP — programme and has done so since its inception in 2006. In that time, the programme — which is a good one — has attracted over 200,000 enrolments across 20 peacekeeping operations in distance training courses, at no cost to the participants. The provision of standardized training to peacekeepers is a foundation of strengthening the effectiveness of that peacekeeping.

This past summer we provided training to the military planning element of the East Africa standby force, with a focus in the first instance on headquarters and logistics planning. We will continue that assistance with that standby force and other standby brigades.

Also this past summer Australia was pleased to sponsor, with Nigeria, the United Nations Regional Conference on Deterrence, the Use of Force and Operational Readiness in Peacekeeping, held at the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre in Kaduna, Nigeria. That Conference attracted participants from around 20 African troop-contributing countries, with a view to developing comprehensive guidance material for all military personnel and support staff. We have also been pleased to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM, with a view to strengthening the AU's capacity to manage peace operations.

We look forward to remaining engaged with the AU to support its work and strengthen its capacity to address the challenges in Africa. We have recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the African Union Commission, which will strengthen our cooperation in areas of mutual interest across the broad remit of the AU agenda, including in the area, above all, of peace and security — which of course is relevant to today's discussion. We have also recently opened — I should say "finally", but it has been done — a resident embassy in Addis Ababa and appointed a defence attaché and staff who are accredited to the AU. Those recent developments should provide a solid foundation for an expanding engagement by Australia with the AU in this area in the future.

Obviously, the most difficult issue under consideration today is the question of predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for the AU's peace and security capability. We commend the major contributors to AU peacekeeping missions for assuming the massive responsibilities that they have done. The issue of funding that responsibility goes to the heart of the global community's ability to respond to threats and to the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the AU.

The question, however, does not arise only when we consider the question of support for AU peacekeeping. Just last week in its debate on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.6396), the Council expressed a similar sentiment when it reaffirmed "the critical importance of timely, flexible and predictable funding for peacebuilding" (see S/PRST/2010/20). In July, following its consideration of the use of preventive diplomacy tools (see S/PV.6360), the Council recognized the importance of enhancing efforts to ensure predictable, coherent and timely financial support to optimize the use of preventive diplomacy tools.

Australia will work pragmatically with Member States to address this issue. It is one in which we all have an interest, not just the members of the Council. We need to collectively consider the financing of peace operations if we are to be serious about assisting

countries emerged from conflict and helping them establish themselves as stable, prosperous nations, and if we are to be serious about the responsibilities we have all assumed as United Nations Members under the Charter. All United Nations Member States should give that question priority, and we should give that priority sooner rather than later.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Abay (Ethiopia): Thank you, Mr. President, for having convened today's meeting. I would like to express my appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General, for his report (S/2010/514). I also wish to express my deep appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Lamamra and his colleagues for the update and for their efforts to consolidate peace in Africa and to coordinate the support for African Union (AU) peacekeeping operations.

Early this year, the Secretary-General told the Council, during its open debate on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to envision a world in which regional organizations and the United Nations work together on all continents, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, to prevent, manage and resolve crises (see S/PV.6257). The increased attention given to the need to strengthen the partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union has been a very encouraging development for African states.

Ethiopia attaches great importance to the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. We believe it is critical to harness the synergy in the relevant domains of both organizations, maximizing the relative advantages that each can offer. While we acknowledge that this strategic partnership is established within the context of the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the AU's proximity to and familiarity with the problem and its capability would obviously enable it to respond quickly to issues arising in that regard.

We are seeing that peacemaking and peacekeeping have become a shared responsibility in which the global community has significant roles to play, and thus working with the regional organizations would assist the United Nations in attaining its objectives. The Council, taking this into account, has taken steps in the right direction to accomplish our common responsibilities.

My delegation emphasizes the need to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme in a consistent manner. Hence, that venture — or, for that matter, investing in building Africa's peacekeeping capacity — means empowering the regional organ in its handling of the security, stability and future of the continent. It would enable the continental organ to realize its potential to the maximum and to stand on its own by building its capabilities.

We share the proposal by the Secretary-General indicating that the time has arrived to elaborate clearer principles and take practical measures to address the challenges of this partnership. The work already begun by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia serve to illustrate the kind of model collaboration that the two need to adopt. Those Missions and the lessons learned could be a basis upon which we can build with regard to what has been achieved thus far.

My delegation welcomes the joint effort to develop the African Union's capacity to respond to crises on the continent and thus supports the proposal to establish a joint United Nations-African Union team to examine the detailed modalities for implementing the capacity-building programme as a whole.

The Council's measures to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding to strengthen the AU peace and security architecture, particularly the peacekeeping operations under the United Nations mandate, are commendable. Yet a lot remains to be done.

We would like to express our support for the use of United Nations assessed funding to support United Nations-authorized African Union peacekeeping operations, based on the proposal presented in the Secretary-General's report. The Council should demonstrate its resolve and political will by providing the necessary resources to boost the AU's capability in this domain.

Ethiopia stands ready to work towards the realization of the objectives of the partnership between the two organs. As the time for further action has arrived, I wish to state that my delegation looks

forward to the effective measures that the Council will take in this regard.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to start by warmly congratulating you, Mr. President, on your leadership of the Council this month, all the more so as you come from a neighbourly and brotherly African country that has contributed so greatly to promoting peace and stability throughout our African continent. It is my great pleasure to commend your role as President of the Council and the role you have played in ensuring the success of the Council's stock-taking visit to the Sudan. That visit enabled the Council to observe the situation on the ground. I would also like to congratulate you for having organized these important discussions on peace and security in Africa in the area of support for the peacekeeping operations of the African Union (AU).

The founding fathers of the United Nations wanted to guarantee, through Chapter VIII of the Charter, that there were legally binding texts regarding the support to be provided by the United Nations to peacekeeping operations carried out by regional and subregional organizations. They were fully aware of the fact that global peace is an integral and indivisible whole and that genuine partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on issues of the maintenance of international peace and security was inevitable.

The recommendations of the African Union-United Nations panel established under Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) were aimed at acquiring the means of financial sustainability for AU peacekeeping operations as authorized by the United Nations. The first part of the report (S/2008/813) focused on the ways to strengthen the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union in order to revitalize channels for joint action between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in a way that fully utilized the potential capacity for partnership and direct coordination in the field of decision-making and the sharing of responsibility, according to the mandates of the two organizations.

I welcome here the mutual visits organized thus far and the joint advisory meetings between the two bodies from 2007 to today. However, we all yearn for greater and closer coordination, especially with regard to United Nations support for the African Union 10-year capacity-building programme and the promotion and enhancement of peacekeeping, as provided for by the joint communiqué publicized by the two Councils following their joint advisory meeting held on 4 July 2010 in New York.

All of us are aware of the need to step up the number of regular briefings by the leaders of the African Union to the Security Council in which they spell out their position regarding progress made in areas of cooperation between the two organizations. In the past, these briefings have stressed the need for cooperation between the two organizations, especially with regard to the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Madagascar and my country, the Sudan.

We agree with the recent report of the Secretary-General with respect to the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which is a two-tiered process. The first tier is the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme and support for the mechanisms of the African peace and security architecture. The second consists of joint efforts by the two organizations through regional mechanisms and the relevant United Nations agencies and institutions in the areas of peacebuilding.

Conflict prevention should also be a priority. I would refer to the concept note on optimizing the use of preventive diplomacy tools (S/2010/371, annex) used by the Security Council to guide its debate of 16 July (see S/PV.6360). The presidential statement adopted on that occasion (S/PRST/2010/14) stressed the enhancement of capacity-building for regional and subregional organizations and national Governments in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peace through mediation, including, more broadly, developing regional working methods in the area of conflict resolution.

With regard to peacekeeping, and specifically the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission has been a success, given the transformation of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan into UNAMID in December 2007. The goal was to create a model for implementation under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

With regard to cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the reports of the Secretary-General and the Chair of the African Union at the time clearly asserted that this was to be an African-owned mission, made up solely of Africans. The United Nations was to provide the necessary technical, financial and logistical assistance, including technical advice, in all areas. That experience illustrates the importance of regional capacity-building in peacekeeping, including efforts aimed at strengthening AMISOM and activating its role.

We believe, however, that the AMISOM experience attests to the importance of predictable and sustainable financing for AU peacekeeping operations mandated by and in coordination with the United Nations. Such operations face many challenges, including the main challenge of being financially dependent on the contributions of international donors and partners, including the African Union. We are well aware that the AU's inability to count on sustainable and predictable sources of financing makes its plans and strategies for peacekeeping operations arbitrary, fluctuating and unstable. The position of donors at the moment when peace agreements are signed sometimes change when it comes to providing assistance in the post-peacekeeping phase.

I could list several examples in that regard, but will limit myself to reminding the Council of the very generous contributions and pledges made by donors at Oslo in 2005 in order to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan. However, such contributions were not forthcoming once both parties to the Agreement entered the implementation phase.

In conclusion, I would like to say that forging a comprehensive strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union requires practical guidelines and measures on the part of the competent legal bodies of the United Nations, especially with respect to financing and its sources. That is all the more true now that the African Union has assumed many responsibilities in the implementation of promising regional initiatives that have contributed to the settlement of conflicts throughout Africa.

I would also like to stress the importance of joint meetings between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. We should establish a broader mechanism to deal with the preparatory work for those meetings, without in any way impinging upon the mandate of the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

It is for those reasons that I welcome the African Union's contributions to and initiatives on the continent, including in my own country, the Sudan.

The President: The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to this statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2010/21.

It is so decided.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.